



# MEMOIRS

OF

HER MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY

Sophia-Charlotte,

QUEEN OF GREAT BRITAIN,

FROM AUTHENTIC DOCUMENTS.

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BY

JOHN WATKINS, LL.D.

AUTHOR OF THE LIFE OF SHERIDAN,

&c. &c.

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EMBELLISHED WITH PORTRAITS

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WITH  
SENTIMENTS OF PROFOUND RESPECT,  
AND  
A SACRED REVERENCE  
FOR  
SORROW OCCASIONED BY AN IRREPARABLE LOSS,  
IN WHICH  
ALL HEARTS MUST PARTICIPATE;  
THIS HUMBLE ATTEMPT TO SKETCH  
A CHARACTER,  
THAT,  
BY THE SPECIAL BLESSING OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE  
UPON THESE REALMS,  
HAS SHONE, WITH A LUSTRE UNPARALLELED,  
FOR NEAR SIXTY YEARS,  
AN UNIFORM EXAMPLE  
OF ALL THE VIRTUES THAT COULD ADORN  
THE WIFE, THE MOTHER, AND THE  
QUEEN,  
IS MOST HUMBLY AND DUTIFULLY INSCRIBED  
TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS  
THE  
PRINCE REGENT.



# P R E F A C E.

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It was a custom with the antient Egyptians, when persons of eminence departed this life, to institute a minute investigation of their conduct in the midst of a general assembly of the people, and according as the balance was found to preponderate on the side of virtue, so was the degree of respect awarded by the public voice to their remains.

After making all due allowance for ordinary errors, and unavoidable infirmities, if the character appeared worthy of general imitation, no honours were thought too great, or ceremonies too expensive, to endear the memory of the deceased, and to perpetuate the record of his actions.

What was thus practised by a nation proverbially celebrated for wisdom, is now become the province of the Historian; and though he has it not in his power to restrict the parade of funereal grandeur, which wealth may purchase, and ambition command, it is his chronicle only that posterity will consult for the deeds of those who in their day were distinguished above the rest of mankind.

Here, as in the grave, the mighty are on a level with the mean; and, however elegant may be the language of interested flatterers, their eulogiums

must soon sink into contempt when devoid of the principle of truth. Nothing can kindle the emotion of gratitude, the sentiment of admiration, and the feeling of emulation, in contemplating the sepulchres of the great, but the faithful memorial of those virtues which will alone remain fragrant amidst the murkiness of the tomb.

Still it is necessary, for the great end of moral instruction, that the lights who have illumined our hemisphere should be registered with scrupulous exactness in the pages of history, to recall men's minds to a consideration of the bright examples which Providence so long continued above the horizon, as guides in the path of immortality.

They who are elevated above the mass of society are objects of general observation during life; and when they depart hence, inquiries naturally arise respecting their public actions and private deportment.

Happy is it, therefore, when the biographer, who undertakes the task of gratifying this spirit of curiosity, as far as his means of intelligence allow, is released from the necessity of becoming an *APOLOGIST*, and finds himself under no other obligation than that of discharging the simple duty of a *NARRATOR*.

Such is the situation in which the author of the ensuing Memoir stands, both as it regards the existing generation and posterity; the living, who seek for information, and the illustrious shade who is now beyond the praise or censure of mortals, in that

sphere "where the wicked cease from troubling, and where the weary are in everlasting rest."

In tracing the course of this exalted personage, who shone, with no borrowed light, through the darkness, storms, and tempests of an evil age, the reader, as he proceeds from year to year, sees the same fixedness of moral and religious principle amidst the shocks of revolutions, the violence of factions, and the increased licentiousness of the times.

The biography of sovereigns placed in such circumstances, and whose lives have been protracted to an unusual period, is expected to abound in remarkable incidents, in the relation of private cabals, the detail of political connexions, and all that variety of matter, emphatically comprised in the term of secret history. Here, on the contrary, the story, though long in itself, from the extent of the period, and interesting on account of its objects, exhibits an even tenour of active virtue uncontaminated by the turbid corruptions of party, and totally free from the imputation of insincerity.

They who look for particulars of regal pageantry will be little gratified in the perusal of this narrative; and still less will those readers be pleased whose vitiated taste is only to be allured by the whisperings of scandal, details of conversations that never occurred, and anecdotes of circumstances that originate only in the fertility of imagination.

But happily there are minds who rise above the impertinence of idle curiosity, who seek information respecting departed excellence, not for amusement only, but for edification; and who, with an emulative spirit, wish to retrace the graces, which eminently adorned a long life of usefulness, that they may be enabled, as far as the difference of station will permit, to "go and do likewise."

To such persons is this volume committed; and with their approbation the writer will be abundantly rewarded.

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# MEMOIRS

OF

HER MAJESTY

QUEEN CHARLOTTE,

Sc. Sc.

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## CHAPTER I.

*Genealogical Anecdotes of the House of Mecklenburg.—Account of the Vandals.—Conversion of Pribislaus.—Change of Government.—Disputes about the Succession.—Artful Conduct of Canute.—Mecklenburg shakes off the Danish Yoke.—Character of John the Divine.—Captivity of his Son in the Holy Land.—Henry the Lion.—Mecklenburg erected into a Duchy.—Albert, King of Sweden.—Generosity of Duke John.—Reformation introduced by Henry the Pacific.—Dukes of Mecklenburg put to the Ban of the Empire.—Relieved by Gustavus-Adolphus.—Character of Duke Adolphus-Frederic.—Eccentricity of his Son.—Disputes between the Branches of Schwerin and Strelitz.—Alliance with Russia.—Misfortunes of the Princess of Mecklenburg.—Conclusion.*

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THE House of Mecklenburg may vie in point of antiquity, and succession of sovereignty, with the first monarchies in Europe, being enabled to trace an uninterrupted course to the Vandalian kings,

whose early history is lost in the darkness of tradition. The last of these chiefs, Pribislaus the Second, after a long and sanguinary contest with Henry the Lion, Duke of Saxony, was obliged to relinquish the regal title for that of Prince of Mecklenburg. This event happened in the year 1163, at which time the inhabitants of this country were for the most part Pagans of a ferocious character, and enslaved to a gloomy superstition. But war has been one of the instruments of Providence to civilize nations; and whatever were the motives of the victor in this case, the people whom he conquered became improved by the change of their government. Partial attempts had been made to convert them, but without effect; and though some of their princes had manifested an inclination to the Christian faith, they soon apostatized through dread of their barbarous subjects. The change that had now taken place was favourable to the good work; and Henry, with the hearty concurrence of Pribislaus, set about it in a manner that deserves admiration. Many of the Saxons, who, by serving in Italy, had acquired much useful knowledge, with a degree of refinement, received encouragement to settle in Mecklenburg, where their conversation and example soon effected a surprising alteration in the manners of the inhabitants.

Pribislaus died at a very advanced age, leaving two sons, Canute, his successor, and Henry Burcwin.

On the demise of the former without issue, the succession was disputed between Henry Burewin and his uncle Nicholas, both of whom agreed to abide by the arbitration of Waldemar, King of Denmark, the Duke of Saxony being now under the ban of the empire, and an exile in England. Waldemar decided that Nicholas should enjoy the town and district of Rostock, while Henry possessed Mecklenburg and Hovia, with their dependencies; but that both should hold their principalities as fiefs of the crown of Denmark. To this preposterous decree, the contending parties assented; and thus the Danish monarchs acquired the title of kings of the Vandals.

Henry Burewin, Prince of Mecklenburg, after a reign of thirty-six years, during which his subjects prospered greatly, resigned the administration to his two sons, and retired to a life of privacy and devotion. He was twice married, first to Maud, daughter of the Prince of Brunswick, by whom he had two sons and a daughter; secondly to Adelhaid, daughter of the King of Poland, who brought him no issue.

The names of the two sons were Henry, who settled at Gustrow; and Nicholas, who resided at Mecklenburg, while their cousin, the Count of Schwerin, dwelt in the city of that name, around which he had a considerable estate. The history of this last Prince of the family is too remarkable

to be passed over in silence. According to the superstition of those times, he undertook an expedition to the Holy Land, leaving his wife under the protection of Waldemar, who abused the trust placed in him, by seducing the lady in the absence of her husband. The count at his return was informed of his dishonour, but concealed his resentment till a convenient opportunity should offer of avenging his wrongs with effect. This occurred soon after in a hunting party on the isle of Lnuith, where Waldemar, being fatigued with the chace, fell asleep in his tent, from whence he was secretly conveyed on board a vessel, and carried to Schwerin. Here he was confined in the castle of Danneberg three years, during which his family and the nobles of Denmark made great exertions for the redemption of their sovereign, by offering large sums for his ransom, and interesting both the Emperor and the Pope in his behalf. An imperial diet was accordingly convoked upon the occasion, where the matter underwent a long debate, in the course of which Waldemar was offered his liberty on condition of relinquishing all his territories and conquests lying near the river Elbe. This proposition Waldemar rejected with indignation; and the Count of Schwerin no less disdainfully despised the menaces of the Pope, who assumed to himself the right of determining between him and his rival. In this crisis the count, with the other princes of

his house, took the field, and in a short space made themselves masters of all the lands which the Danes had conquered in Vandalia. Thus reduced, the states of the kingdom urged Waldemar to comply with the terms that had been offered, to which he at length reluctantly assented. But though bound by a solemn oath to observe his engagements, he had scarcely recovered his freedom before he violated them all, under the sanction of a papal absolution; and having collected a large army, marched towards the Elbe, on the banks of which he was opposed by a confederate force, and defeated.

Thus Mecklenburg established its independence, but which it lost again on the death of Burewin the Second, who, by dividing his territories among his sons, so weakened the family, that the princes entered into a treaty with Eric the Sixth of Denmark, whom they acknowledged as their sovereign, and protector against the growing power of the emperors.

John, the eldest of these Princes, and the immediate ancestor of the present House of Mecklenburg, was a very extraordinary character. In his youth he studied at the university of Paris, where he made so great a progress in philosophy and scholastic theology, as to receive the degree of doctor, accompanied with the appellation of the Divine. He had, however, much higher pretensions to that honourable distinction than what arose from his skill in metaphysical subtleties; for he turned his

knowledge to the noble purpose of reforming his subjects, numbers of whom lived by plunder, and all were in a state of deplorable ignorance. The patriotic labours of this accomplished prince were crowned with success, and he had also the satisfaction of freeing his country from the incursions of the Livonians, so that on all accounts he richly merited the epithet bestowed upon him by the courtesy of the times.

He was succeeded in 1260 by his eldest son, Henry, who, instead of following his father's course, and living among his people, embarked for the Holy Land; but on the voyage fell into the hands of the Saracens, who carried him to Grand Cairo, where he remained twenty-six years, supported by the labours of his domestic, who, having been bred in the silk manufacture, was enabled to earn a good livelihood during this long captivity.

At length, by the liberality of a new Sultan, the prince regained his liberty; and, after many extraordinary adventures, reached his patrimonial dominions, which had been greatly improved, and even enlarged, during his long absence, under the prudent government of one of his brothers.

Instead of profiting by this example of economy, and by his own misfortunes, Henry almost immediately after his arrival made war upon a neighbouring state, and took the city of Wismar. Death, however, put a stop to his ambition the year following, when he was succeeded by his son,

Henry the Lion, in whose time Nicholas Burewin, of the Mecklenburg family, having involved himself in trouble by disputes with Brandenburg, sold the principality of Rostock to the King of Denmark. This alienation so irritated the inhabitants of the ceded country, that to appease them, the Danish monarch was under the necessity of appointing Henry the Lion to the government. Henry having married the daughter of the Margrave of Brandenburg, claimed in her right an estate which was disputed by her brother John, on which, each appealed to arms, when the latter was defeated, and obliged to resign the province of Stargard to the victor.

Henry the Lion, who may be considered as the founder of the branch of Strelitz, died after a glorious reign in 1329, leaving by his second wife two sons, Albert, his successor in the principality of Mecklenburg, and John, who inherited by his father's will the lordship of Stargard.

In consideration of the services rendered to Charles the Fourth, they were created by him in 1349 dukes of the empire.

The Swedish nobility having deposed their sovereign, Magnus, for his tyranny, offered the vacant throne to the Count of Holstein, on whose refusal it was tendered to Albert, eldest son of the Duke of Mecklenburg, by whom, with the consent of his father and the other members of his family, it was accepted. This naturally produced a long and

sanguinary war, in which the cause of Magnus was supported by the Kings of Norway and Denmark, while Albert had no other ally on whom he could depend but his father, who made great sacrifices to secure his son in the seat which he had so imprudently taken. For some time Albert was very successful, and by entering into a treaty with Denmark, but chiefly by getting Magnus into his hands, he appeared to have overcome all his difficulties. The case, however, was otherwise, for on the death of Waldemar a new enemy arose in the person of Margaret, the second daughter of that monarch, and widow of Haquin, King of Norway. This remarkable woman, who has been called the Northern Semiramis, was left with one son, Olaus, whom she set up as the heir of Waldemar, and succeeded in getting him recognized, while she was admitted to govern during his minority. On the death of Olaus, the Danish nobility raised her to the throne, to which she added that of Norway, and soon afterwards assumed the title of Queen of Sweden.

The old Duke Albert was now dead, but the Mecklenburg family made a common cause with their relative, the King of Sweden, who collected all his forces ; and a general battle was fought near Falkoping, which was completely decisive in favour of Margaret. Albert and his son Eric were made prisoners, together with the Prince of Holstein, and a number of the Swedish nobles. At this time the

duchy of Mecklenburg was in the hands of John, the nephew of Albert, which prince supported the cause of his uncle with the greatest heroism and disinterested generosity. His ardour was increased rather than cooled by the defeat at Falkoping; and having borrowed large sums of the Teutonic knights, upon the mortgage of some of his estates, he fitted out a powerful armament, with which in person he traversed the Baltic seas, and committed such ravages on the coast of Sweden as compelled Margaret to enter into a negotiation for peace. After many discussions, Albert and his son regained their liberty upon condition of renouncing all pretensions to the crown of Sweden, and paying a considerable sum by way of ransom, which money was raised by the ladies of Mecklenburg, who for that purpose sold their jewels and paraphernalia. As a reward for this act of patriotism, a law was passed, rendering the daughters of the nobility of Mecklenburg capable of succeeding to the estates held in fee of the duke.

This affection of the Duke John was the more remarkable and honourable, as the imprisonment of his uncle and nephew gave him entire possession of the sovereignty, while their release obliged him to divide the power with Albert, who, it was reasonable to suppose, would not be inclined to live a quiet life, after having been a king for twenty-three years.

The tranquillity of Mecklenburg, however, remained without interruption till the death of Albert in 1412, when his son, of the same name by a second marriage, came to be partner in the government with Duke John. An alteration in the constitution was then made, by which, in cases of coregency, it was settled that the elder duke should preside in all affairs of government, while the younger acted as first minister. Soon after this, John entered into a confederacy with the Princes of Stargard, Brunswick, Holstein, and Sleswick, against Eric, King of Denmark, who had encroached upon their common privileges. This contest was carried on with great vigour on both sides, till the Duke of Mecklenburg, who occupied Sleswick, was compelled by the weakness of the place to surrender, and agree to withdraw from the alliance into which he had entered. This capitulation gave the princes of the Mecklenburg family that repose of which their respective territories stood greatly in need. But if the impoverished state of the country rendered peace necessary, the manners of the people called for it no less, as the predatory warfare in which they had been so long engaged only served to increase their natural ferocity, and to indispose them for the habits of social life. In order, therefore, to correct these evils, Duke John undertook several public works, which excited a spirit of in-

dustry ; and he also founded the university of Rostock for the encouragement of learning.

This excellent prince, and his colleague, Albert, died in 1423. The former had been married twice and left two sons, but Duke Albert left no issue.

John, the third duke, died in 1443, leaving the inheritance to his brother, Henry, called the Fat, who became sole Duke of Mecklenburg and Prince of Wenden, which estates he governed with great prudence and tranquillity till his death, an event that happened in 1477. By Dorothea, daughter of Frederic, Elector of Brandenburg, he had four sons and two daughters—Albert, who succeeded him, but died the same year without issue ; John, who died in the life-time of his father ; Magnus, who succeeded Albert ; Balthazar, Bishop of Schwerin ; Anne, who died without issue ; and Elizabeth, Abbess of Ribnitz.

Duke Magnus, who was a wise and liberal prince, left at his death three sons, Eric, Henry, and Albert, called the Handsome, who governed in conjunction ; but the first was so devoted to literary pursuits that he took little part in the affairs of state, which were left almost exclusively to the management of Henry, denominated, and justly, the Pacific, and Father of his People.

At this time the light of the reformation, kindled by Luther, broke forth in Germany ; but though Henry of Mecklenburg favoured the new doc-

trines upon that conviction which was the result of close and serious investigation, he adopted no rigorous measures towards his subjects, who still adhered to the ancient religion; nor did he hold out any allurements to induce them to follow his example. His whole conduct was regulated by the exalted principles of free inquiry and toleration; on which account he refused to become a party in the Protestant league of Smalcald, which he considered as tending rather to foment political intrigues than to promote the interests of truth and charity.

Duke Albert, the brother of Henry of Mecklenburg, was of a very different character, which he evinced by taking the part of Christiern the Second, when that monarch was deprived of the throne of Denmark for his tyranny. On this occasion, Albert commanded an expedition fitted out from Lubeck; but though he succeeded in capturing Copenhagen, where his duchess was delivered of a son, he was so closely besieged by Christiern the Third, as to be obliged to capitulate on humiliating terms. This Duke Albert died in 1547, leaving five sons and a daughter—John-Albert, Ulric, afterwards Bishop of Schwerin, George, Christopher, Bishop of Ratseburg, Charles, who succeeded the last mentioned, and Anne, the wife of the Duke of Courland.

Henry the Pacific, Duke of Mecklenburg, died in 1552, with the blessings of all his subjects, both Catholic and Protestant. He was three times mar-

ried; first to Ursula, daughter of John, Elector of Brandenburg, by whom he had one son and two daughters. Magnus, the son, became Bishop of Schwerin; and having embraced the Lutheran religion, married a daughter of the King of Denmark, but died without issue before his father. The eldest daughter, Sophia, married Ernest of Zell, Duke of Lunenburg; and the second, Ursula, died single, and Abbess of Ribnitz. By his second wife, Eleanor, daughter of Philip, Elector Palatine, Henry had a son, Philip, who was deprived of the succession on account of the defect of his understanding; and two daughters, one married to Henry, Duke of Munsterburg, and the other to Frederic, the Duke of Lignitz. The third wife of Henry the Pacific was Ursula, daughter of the Duke of Saxe Lunenburgh, by whom he had no children.

In consequence of the mental imbecility of Philip, the son of Duke Henry, the government of Mecklenburg devolved upon John-Albert, the eldest son of Albert the handsome, and Ulric, Bishop of Schwerin. These princes were both men of great merit; and being zealously disposed to further the interests of learning and religion, they applied with diligence to the institution of schools, and the reformation of the University of Rostock, the revenues of which had been sadly deteriorated. Besides attending to these important objects, and correcting a number of abuses that had been suffered to re-

main in the ecclesiastical establishment, the two dukes composed a body of excellent laws, which would have rendered the people happy under their administration, had it not been for an unfortunate family dispute. Ulric, on marrying the widow of Magnus, Bishop of Schwerin, demanded of his brother an enlargement of territory, which John-Albert rejected with some degree of harshness. This refusal produced warm disputes, which were inflamed by some of the neighbouring princes, who, taking part with Ulric, urged him to invade his brother's dominions. In this exigency, John finding himself unable to cope with the confederacy formed against him, submitted the matters in litigation to the decision of arbitrators, who awarded that Ulric should have a moiety of the territories; and that, besides the undivided revenues of the bishopric of Schwerin, he should have half the personal property that had been left by his uncle.

John-Albert, who died in 1576, married Sophia, daughter of Albert, Duke of Prussia, by whom he had three sons—John, who succeeded him, Albert, who died an infant, and Sigismund-Augustus, who married a daughter of the Duke of Pomerania, but died before his father, without issue. Ulric, the brother and colleague of John, had a daughter, Sophia, who married Frederic, King of Denmark, which monarch behaved with the most filial regard to his father-in-law, particularly in subjugating the

city of Rostock, when it endeavoured to become independent of the House of Mecklenburg.

Ulric, who, on account of his age and wisdom, obtained the epithet of the German Nestor, died without any other issue than one daughter, in his seventy-fifth year, beloved by his subjects, and esteemed by the neighbouring states. He had nominally, as his coadjutor in the government, John, the son of John-Albert; but being disordered both in mind and understanding, he took no part in the administration, and died by his own hand in 1592. This prince married Sophia, daughter of Albert, Duke of Holstein, by whom he had two sons, Adolphus-Frederic and John-Albert, who succeeded to the government in consequence of the failure of male issue on the part of Duke Ulric. The eldest of these princes had for his portion the duchy of Schwerin, and the other that of Gustrow.

The Duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin married first Anna-Maria, daughter of Enno, Prince of East Friesland; secondly, Mary-Catherine, daughter of Ernest, Duke of Brunswick. By his first wife he had Christian, his eldest son, and successor in the duchy of Schwerin, Charles, John-George, and Gustavus-Rodolphus, with two daughters, Sophia-Agnes and Anna-Maria.

By his second wife he had Frederic, who succeeded him in the duchy of Grabow; and five daughters, Juliana, Sibilia, Christina, Mary-Eliza-

beth, and Anna-Sophia. What is very remarkable in the history of this prince is, that though he died at the extraordinary age of ninety, his duchess was delivered seven months afterwards of a daughter, to whom he had eventually bequeathed the district of Strelitz.

John-Albert, the brother of Adolphus-Frederic, Duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin, married first Margaret-Elizabeth, daughter of the Bishop of Ratseburg; secondly, Elizabeth, daughter of Maurice, Landgrave of Hesse; and, lastly, Leonora-Mary, daughter of Christian, Prince of Anhalt-Dernburg. By the first of these princesses he had two sons, who died infants, and two daughters, Sophia-Elizabeth, who married Augustus, Duke of Wolfenbuttle, and Chrisuna-Margaret, who married Francis-Albert, Duke of Saxe Lunenburg. By his second wife Duke John-Albert had no issue; but his last brought him a son, Gustavus-Adolphus, and a daughter, named Anna-Sophia.

In the destructive war occasioned by the elevation of Frederic, the Elector Palatine, to the throne of Bohemia, the Dukes of Mecklenburg, Adolphus-Frederic, and John-Albert, took so decided a part, jointly with the other Protestant princes, as to be put under the ban of the empire, their dominions being given to the imperial general Wallenstein, who assumed the entire sovereignty, while the lawful princes in exile suffered great hardships, as

well as their people. In this distress, Providence raised up a deliverer for the oppressed in the person of Gustavus-Adolphus of Sweden, who passed over into Germany, and restored the Dukes of Mecklenburg to the territories of which they had been so long dispossessed. But the fall of the brave Gustavus at the battle of Lutzen greatly dispirited the Protestants of Germany, and the flames of war again spread desolation throughout Mecklenburg; in which state of his country Duke John-Albert died, in the forty-fifth year of his age, leaving an infant son only three years old. On this event, Duke Adolphus-Frederic, being fearful that the young prince would be educated in the Romish faith, laid claim to the guardianship of him; which was contested by the mother, who appealed to the emperor, by whom her right to the sole care of the child was affirmed. This, however, did not satisfy the uncle, who carried off the young Gustavus by force, and caused him to be brought up in the Protestant religion. At length, after inexpressible calamities, a principal share of which fell to the lot of the people of Mecklenburg, the treaty of Westphalia put an end to the war, and the Protestant states obtained additional securities for their independence and religion.

The first care of Duke Adolphus-Frederic, on regaining possession of his estates, was to ameliorate

the condition' of his subjects by restoring agriculture, and encouraging manufactures.

In 1647 he gave his daughter Anna-Maria in marriage to Augustus, Duke of Weissenfels; and in 1650 his other daughter, Sophia-Agnes, was contracted to Augustus, Margrave of Brandenburg Bayrent; but the bridegroom dying before the espousals, that amiable princess renounced the world, and devoted herself to a religious life. The same year, Christian, the eldest son of the duke, married his cousin Christina-Margaretta, widow of the Duke of Saxe-Lunenburg, who fell in the wars between the Swedes and Imperialists.

But the paternal solicitude of the venerable Adolphus-Frederic was not confined to his own children and subjects, for, notwithstanding his extraordinary age, he paid such attention to the concerns of his nephew Gustavus-Adolphus, Duke of Mecklenburg Gustrow, that when the young prince arrived at maturity, he found himself in possession of an ample revenue and a most flourishing estate.

In 1658 died Adolphus-Frederic, whose life, though chequered by numerous misfortunes, manifested an equal portion of virtues, which were rewarded by a patriarchal longevity that enabled him to heal the wounds inflicted upon his country, and to leave it in a state of tranquil prosperity.

His successor Christian was the reverse of his

father in every respect, being wild, extravagant, and capricious, to the extreme of folly.

In his person he was uncommonly handsome, and he had besides the most agreeable manner, with an abundance of wit. But these accomplishments were debased by the grossest licentiousness, and the total want of religious principle. His wife, who loved him passionately, became at last exasperated by his abandoned conduct; while he, on the other hand, instead of concealing his infidelity, made an open boast of it, and added cruelty to neglect. At length the nobility, disgusted with his behaviour, deserted the court, and even refused to pay the customary taxes. The duke, therefore, finding himself abandoned, and despised in his own country, resolved to seek relief for his perturbed mind in foreign parts; accordingly, having nominated a council of regency, he proceeded to Paris, thinking that the gaieties of that voluptuous court would dissipate his anxieties. Soon after his arrival in France, he became enamoured with the widow of the Duke de Chatillon, and sister to Marshal Montmorenci. The lady, though gratified with his attentions, was too proud to be his mistress; and as he was already married, an insuperable bar appeared to lie in the way of his inclinations. There was only one method of getting over this obstacle, and that was by an abjuration of the Protestant faith. It may easily be supposed that this expedient did not cost

much sacrifice on the part of one who had never made religion the rule of his actions. Christian, in short, signified his desire to be admitted into the bosom of the church of Rome to the Cardinal Nuncio, who, without troubling himself about the motives of the conversion, imparted the wish of the duke to his holiness, who gave directions for the baptism, which was performed with great ceremony in the presence of Lewis the Fourteenth, who stood godfather on the occasion, and gave his own name to the new convert. Shortly after this he married the Duchess of Chatillon, by virtue of a papal dispensation; but such a union could not be productive of happiness. The habits of the duke were as libertine as ever, for his principles had undergone no change; and the duchess, who had been flattered by his apostasy, could not brook his infidelity. Quarrels ensued, in which the friends of the lady took part against the husband, who quitted France abruptly, to seek undisturbed pleasure at Rome, where he formed an acquaintance with the famous Jesuit Athanasius Kircher; thus endeavouring to procure that mental remedy which mere philosophy cannot supply. After leading a wandering life about Italy, his thoughts turned towards home; but from thence he was shut out, as much by his own fears as by the resolution of the family. In this state of exile he settled at the Hague, where he died in the sixty-

ninth year of his age, in 1692, without leaving any legitimate issue.

His brother, Frederic-William, Duke of Mecklenburg Grabow, had been dead four years, leaving three sons, Frederic-William, Charles-Leopold, Christian-Lewis, and a daughter, Sophia-Louisa.

The eldest of these princes, on the death of his uncle, claimed the dukedom; but his title being disputed by Adolphus-Frederic of Strelitz, the posthumous brother of Christian, the affair was referred to the Elector of Brandenburg, who gave his award in favour of the nephew.

This difference had hardly been settled before another arose, occasioned by the death of Gustavus-Adolphus, Duke of Gustrow, without male issue; in consequence of which the Duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz laid claim to the succession, on the ground of proximity of blood; but he was opposed by the Duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin, whose claim rested upon priority of descent.

The widow of Gustavus-Adolphus, the last Duke of Gustrow, survived her husband several years; and the inscription on her coffin is sufficiently curious for insertion in this place.

“Here lieth a princess, most remarkable for longevity, Magdalena-Sibylla, Duchess of Mecklenburg, heiress of Norway, Duchess of Sleswick, Holstein, Stormar, and Ditmarsh, Countess of Oldenburg and Dalmenhorst, &c. who, to the great

joy of the most illustrious house of Gottorp, was born anno 1631, the fourteenth of November; and for the welfare of the country, of Mecklenburg was married the twenty-eighth of November, 1654, to his serene highness Gustavus-Adolphus, Duke of Mecklenburg Gustrow, Prince of Wenden, &c. Happily for the state, she resided sixty-five years in Gustrow, and at length exchanged this life for a better, the twenty-second of September, 1719, in the twenty-fourth year, of her widowhood, and the eighty-eighth year of her age, after having given the highest proofs of her faith, piety, and princely benignity. Her remains will flourish in the mansions of death, and her name will be for ever loved and revered among mankind.”

.. The dispute relative to the duchy of Gustrow ran so high, that the litigants had recourse to arms for the decision of their pretensions; and the Duke of Strelitz, being weaker than his opponent, called in the Swedes to his assistance, which justly exciting the apprehensions of the emperor, he lost no time in adopting measures for preserving the peace of Germany. An assembly of the princes of Lower Saxony was immediately convened, in which it was resolved to put the disputed duchy under sequestration till an amicable adjustment of the existing claims should be accomplished. To this decision the Duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz readily agreed, as well as his competitor; but unfortunately the Swedes had already

obtained a footing in the country, which they refused to quit, and they actually kept possession of all the fortresses till the year 1701, when the business, after four years delay, was finally settled. The arbitrators to whom the subject in dispute was referred met at Hamburg, where they awarded that Duke Frederic-William should enjoy the principality of Gustrow with the duchy of Schwerin; and that Adolphus-Frederic, besides his dukedom of Strelitz, should hold the principality of Ratzeburg, the lordship of Stargard, and the commanderies of Mirow and Nemero, with a yearly sum of nine thousand rix-dollars out of the Boitzenburg toll.

This adjudication, being acceded to by both parties, received the imperial confirmation, at which time also the right of primogeniture and the lineal succession of both houses were precisely determined, for the prevention of future disputes. Such was the compact by which this principality became divided into the two branches of Schwerin and Strelitz, though the title remained the same in both, being that of Duke of Mecklenburg, Prince of Wenden, Schwerin, and Ratzeburg, Count of Schwerin, and the country of Rostock, and Lord of Stargard.

Duke Frederic-William of Schwerin married in 1704 Sophia-Charlotte, daughter of the landgrave of Hesse Cassel; but he had no children, and being

of an infirm constitution, which was farther weakened by sorrow for the sufferings of his subjects in the wars that ravaged Germany, he fell into a consumption, and died at Mentz in 1713, aged thirty-nine.

His brother, Charles-Leopold, married Sophia-Hedwiga, daughter of Henry-Casimir-Nassau, hereditary Stadtholder of West Friesland, from whom he was soon afterwards publicly divorced. He next married Catherine, daughter of the Czar John, elder brother of Peter the Great of Russia, a union that was attended with very extraordinary circumstances. On the death of Peter the Second, the Russian nobility raised to the vacant throne Anne-Ivanowna, Duchess of Courland, the younger sister of the Duchess of Mecklenburg, whose daughter, however, and the only child she had, was adopted by the empress as her successor.

In 1739 the Czarina gave her niece in marriage to Anthony-Ulric, Prince of Brunswick-Wolfenbuttle, by whom she had a son named Iwan, who was only two months old at the death of his aunt, when he was immediately proclaimed emperor; and soon after, his mother, the grand-duchess, assumed the title of regent. Her government was wise and moderate; but nothing could remove the prejudices which the Russians had against German connexions. A conspiracy was formed in favour of the Princess Elizabeth, daughter of Peter the

Great; and so well was it contrived, that the grand-duchess, her husband, and son, were arrested without noise or opposition, and sent off to Riga, where they remained under close confinement, nor could the courts of Vienna and Berlin procure their release.

On the death of the unfortunate Charles-Leopold in 1747, without any surviving issue, the full possession of his estates came to his brother, Christian-Lewis, who died in 1756, and was succeeded by his son, Duke Frederic, whose mother was Gustava, of the family of Strelitz. This prince married Louisa-Frederica, daughter of Duke Frederic-Lewis, hereditary Prince of Wurtemberg Stutgard, and of Princess Henrietta-Maria of Brandenburg Suedt, by whom he had no children; but his brother Lewis, who married Charlotte-Sophia, daughter of Francis-Josiah, Duke of Saxe Saalfeld, had one son and one daughter.

Adolphus-Frederic the Second, Duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz, who died in 1708, was thrice married; first to Mary, daughter of the last Duke of Gustrow, by whom he had a son, who succeeded him in his dominions; and a daughter, named Gustava-Carolina, who became the wife of Christian Lewis, administrator of the Duchy of Schwerin, and the successor of his brother Charles-Leopold. The second wife of Duke Adolphus-Frederic was Johanna, widow of Frederic, Duke of Saxe Gotha, who brought him no issue; but by his third wife,

Christina-Amelia-Antonia, daughter of the Prince of Schwartzburg Sanderhausen, he had a daughter, who died an infant, and a son, Charles-Lewis-Frederic.

Adolphus-Frederic the Third married in 1709 Dorothy-Sophia, daughter of John-Adolphus, Duke of Holstein-Ploen, by whom he had no issue; and at his death, in 1752, the title and estates devolved to his nephew, Adolphus-Frederic, the son of Lewis-Frederic, Duke of Mirow.

Having thus traced the genealogical history of the serene house of Mecklenburg to the period of its near alliance with Great Britain, the heraldic narrative may properly close with a display of its armorial bearings.

The shield is party per pale, two bends divided into six fields, exclusive of an escutcheon. The first of these is topaz, a buffalo's head gardant ruby, crowned with horns; pearl, with a ring of the same through its nostrils, for Mecklenburg. The second is sapphire, a griffin topaz for Wenden. The third, party per fesse barry of two sapphire, with a griffin pearl, and a lozenge amethyst. Both these are supposed to be the arms of Rostock. The escutcheon is party per fesse, and ruby topaz, for the county of Schwerin. The fourth is ruby, a cross wavy pearl, for the principality of Ratzeburg. The fifth, ruby, an arm-cloathed pearl, and bound with a ribband of the same, issuing

from a cloud, and holding up a ring topaz, with a stone infixed, for the lordship of Stargard. The sixth is topaz, a buffalo's head, diamond, with a crown topaz, and horns pearl, a tongue panting, and placed oblique; the allusion of which is conjectural.

The crest is composed of five helmets open and crowned: the first, for Mecklenburg, is surmounted with five pales, sharp-pointed, and joined towards the bottom: the first azure, the second or, the third gules, the fourth argent, the fifth sable, surmounted with a buffalo's head sable, crowned gules, horned argent, contournè, and placed in profile: behind the head is a peacock's tail, fastened towards the bottom to the upper part of the pales. The second, for Wenden, surmounted with two wings, the one azure, and the other or. The third, for Stargard, surmounted with two buffalo's horns, coupèd with gules and or. The fourth, for Schwerin, surmounted with a half griffin. The fifth, for Ratzeburg, surmounted with seven lances, argent, to which are fastened towards the points the same number of small banners, also argent. The mantles are of all colours and metals. The supporters are on the right a buffalo, on the left a griffin.

## CHAPTER II.

*Marriage of Duke Charles-Lewis-Frederic.—Settles at Mirow.—Character of the Duchess.—Care of her Children.—Mr. Gentzmer.—Mademoiselle Seltzer.—Death of the Duke.—Removal of the Family to Strelitz.—Madame de Grabow.—Plan of Education.—Progress of the Princess Charlotte.—Family Economy.—Picture of the Court.—Description of the Palace.—Sketches of Character.—Distresses of Mecklenburg.—Letter to the King of Prussia.—Its Effects.—Death of King George the Second.*

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CHARLES-LEWIS-FREDERIC, the younger son of Adolphus-Frederic, the second Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, was only three months old at the death of his father, who settled upon him the commanderies of Mirow and Nemerow, the revenues of which would have accumulated considerably during his minority, had it not been for the miseries inflicted upon the whole principality during the wars which devastated Germany at the beginning of the last century. The young duke completed his education at the university of Gripswald in Pomerania, after which he entered into the imperial service; but though he attained the rank of a general, no opportunities offered for the display of his military talents. At the age of twenty-five, he married the

Princess Albertina-Elizabeth, daughter of Ernest-Frederic, Duke of Saxe Hildburghausen; which union, as it was founded on mutual affection, never suffered from any caprice.

Their serene highnesses, though in the bloom of life, immediately fixed their residence at the ducal palace of Mirow, where the little court which they formed contributed materially to the benefit of the inhabitants of the town, who about three years before had suffered severely by a most dreadful conflagration. In a short time, however, the place revived with an elegance which left little room to lament the catastrophe that had occurred; and the people were rendered happy by the encouragement given to industry, and the example of virtue daily set before them in the family of their illustrious protectors.

The first fruit of this union was a daughter, named Christina-Sophia-Albertina, born the sixth of December, 1735. The next was a son, born May the fifth, 1738, and to whom, as the heir to the ducal honours of Mecklenburg Strelitz, was given by his uncle the name of Adolphus-Frederic. On the tenth of October, 1741, the duchess was delivered of a second son, named Charles-Lewis-Frederic, after his father; and on the twenty-seventh of August, the year following, was born another son, christened Ernest-Gottlob-Albert. On the sixteenth of May, 1744, her serene highness

was delivered of a second daughter, named SOPHIA-CHARLOTTE; and on the sixteenth of August, 1748, of a son, named George-Augustus.

All the children were born at Mirow, the palace of which bore a near resemblance to the castellated mansions of our old English nobility, when surrounded by a tenantry, whose succession went on as regularly in the same lineage as that of the house under which they held their tenures.

Though the duke was of a very delicate constitution, and often suffered severely from pulmonic complaints, he exerted himself very much in the improvement of his estates, and attending to the education of his children. The duchess bore an active part in these labours; and as no one knew better how to rear the tender thought into a proper disposition for knowledge, no one was better qualified to render tuition useful by directing its application to the great purposes of life. To a strong and comprehensive mind, enriched with the elegant accomplishments befitting her high birth and station, she added the winning graces of a Christian temper, which so uniformly shone through all her actions as to give a most persuasive effect to her instructions. Firmly grounded in religious principles, which she had thoroughly studied and well understood, the duchess made it her chief care to instil into the minds of her offspring those sacred truths, the efficacious influence of which

she knew, from her own experience, would alone render power safe, and wealth a blessing. In these sentiments, the duke, her husband, entirely coincided; and on that account all the children enjoyed a domestic education, the principal direction of which was committed to the Reverend Mr. Gentzmer, a Lutheran divine of considerable talents, and most agreeable manners, being religious without bigotry, and learned without pedantry. This respectable man, who was a native of Welsickendorff, in the Marck of Brandenburg, added to his scholastic qualifications an extensive knowledge of mathematics, natural philosophy, botany, and mineralogy: in all which branches of science his young pupils, first at Mirow, and afterwards at Strelitz, profited much from his instructions. How well he discharged his duty in this important trust was evinced in the classical attainments of the hereditary prince, who, at the age of fifteen, was chosen rector of the university of Gripswald, before which learned body he delivered a Latin oration of his own composition, in a style of nervous eloquence, and modesty of expression, suited to the dignity of the place, and the juvenility of the speaker.

Though the care of the two princesses came more immediately within the charge of the duchess, she did not leave even the instruction of their brothers to the sole management of the preceptor, whatever might be the confidence which she placed

dant opportunities of learning the manners of the court; as she spent a great part of her youth in the capital, where she acquired every elegant accomplishment. She understood Latin well, spoke Italian and French with great fluency, while of her own language she had a complete command, and wrote in it with elegance, as appeared in several poetical pieces, which procured her the title of the German Sappho. She was besides accurately read in ancient and modern history; to which she added a thorough knowledge of geography and chronology.

With these attainments, Madame de Grabow possessed an excellent taste and judgment, so that she could at once point out the beauties or defects of literary composition; while with no less discrimination she illustrated the justness of the reasoning, or detected the weakness of the sophistry. Uniting a high sense of honour to a most conciliating address, she knew how to blend authority with respect; and being in perfectly independent circumstances, she stood in no need of submitting to any regulations which might be at variance with her own ideas of tuition. But nothing of the kind was to be apprehended in a family constituted like that at Strelitz, and to which Madame de Grabow was far from being a stranger, having long enjoyed the friendship of Mademoiselle Seltzer, and the esteem of the excellent duchess. She was at this time a

widow of about forty-five, and possessed of a very handsome fortune derived from her father, and the will of her husband, who, as the assessor of the high court of Gústrow, had realized a considerable estate. Being thus unincumbered, she the more readily accepted the invitation of the duchess dowager, as presenting a sphere of employment the most suitable that could be for one of her active turn of mind, and who had, during a principal part of her life, resided within the precincts of a court.

Having settled her affairs, and disposed of her house at Gustrow, which was her native place, Madame de Grabow became a resident in the palace of Strelitz, where she continued above seven years to enjoy the utmost confidence and respect, living on terms of friendship with the duchess, and regarded by all the children with affection. The labour of instruction was lightened by the pains that had already been taken, and it was rendered pleasant by the ductility of disposition upon which it was employed. As the elder princess wanted little more assistance in the prosecution of her studies than what could be communicated in occasional discourse, the attention of Madame de Grabow may almost be said to have been wholly directed to the improvement of the Princess Charlotte, whose opening powers of mind expanded more vigorously by the intellectual advance of her sister.

The plan of education was strictly systematic in

an exact distribution of the different branches of knowledge, and a scrupulous economy of time for the several objects of study, work, and amusement.

Thus the most important concern of human life went on in perfect smoothness, every new acquisition in learning serving to confirm and illustrate that which preceded it; while the mind became stored without confusion, and disciplined without weariness.

Under so able a teacher as Madame de Grabow, the princess could not fail to be well grounded in the grammatical construction of her native language, and to have her taste formed by an acquaintance with the most elegant writers, who had at that time enriched German literature by their publications. This study of good authors was rendered permanently beneficial by abstracts of their arguments, observations on their style of composition, and occasional attempts at imitation.

In due course the French and Italian followed, with the polite literature of each language; but of the English, Madame de Grabow had not the slightest knowledge, which indeed was not to be wondered, considering how little even the German was then understood in this country, though it was the native tongue of the reigning monarch.

The progress of the young pupil reflected credit on the talents and diligence of the teacher, who enjoyed the best reward in the growing excellence

of the character that was forming under her management, which pleasure she participated with the worthy Mr. Gentzmer, whose instructions were continued at Strelitz till the junior branches stood no longer in need of his assistance; and then he was promoted to the rectory of Stargard.

The memory of the princess was not less retentive than her perception was acute. She learnt rules, attended to explanations; and without any other impulse than that of an active desire of knowledge, exercised herself in the application of the principles which she had acquired. Thus, in reading history, to which she was particularly attached, maps were always consulted as often as any doubt arose respecting the position of places mentioned in the narrative; and in like manner dates were carefully compared, by reference to the proper authorities, in order to ascertain the exact period when the events that interested attention actually occurred.

Madame de Grabow was herself well skilled in the construction of maps, which she drew with equal accuracy and elegance. From her the princess imbibed a similar taste, and thus laid the foundation of that extensive knowledge in geography which distinguished her through life. She was naturally of an inquisitive turn of mind, which was properly directed by her enlightened teacher into the means of quickening the judgment, and storing the memory. Thus, the business of instruction was relieved

from fatigue, and became shortened by constant inquiry and reciprocal confidence. The same ease and freedom distinguished the intercourse between the princess and her other instructors, particularly M. Gentzmer, for whom she entertained a tender respect. That excellent man took as much delight in his pupil, whose inquiries in his favourite pursuits of natural history were extremely flattering, and which he always answered in a manner that served to keep alive the curiosity which it gratified. From him the princess acquired an elementary knowledge of the general principles of science, when her judgment became sufficiently strong to comprehend the ideas of those subjects. The indefatigable ardour of M. Gentzmer for mineralogical researches could not escape the observation of one who had known him from her infancy, and daily witnessed his peculiar habits. His collection of fossils was one of the finest even in Germany; and he had great pleasure in exhibiting and discoursing upon these natural curiosities.

The young princess took great pleasure in listening to the explications of her tutor, and in the inspection of his cabinet. This circumstance is here mentioned as marking the origin of that predilection for the study of natural history, and particularly mineralogy, which continued to distinguish the illustrious pupil of M. Gentzmer uniformly through life, and of which she gave a striking proof in her

patronage of M. de Luc, the late venerable father of geological science in England.

While the solid and more immediately useful parts of learning were thus enriching the mind in subservience to the permanent principles of natural and revealed religion, the lighter ornaments of the sex were neither neglected nor superficially regarded.

Drawing, music, and dancing, had their respective teachers, and allotted portions of time. The dance was then, as it still continues to be, a favourite amusement throughout Germany, on which account it constitutes, together with music, a leading feature in the education of both sexes. The two princesses of Strelitz were very fond of this national diversion, in which they shone with remarkable grace; as they also did in vocal and instrumental music. But these requisite embellishments of the female character in elevated life were not suffered to supersede the less brilliant but more substantial qualifications, by which even rank is dignified, and beauty becomes amiable.

The duchess dowager had an utter abhorrence of idleness, which she considered as the source of every evil; and, therefore, while she willingly allowed amusements to diversify the scene, she exacted a strict employment of time in the fulfilment of the duties which each member of the family had to perform. Hence she enforced industry by her

authority, and taught it by her example. As she governed her household at Mirow with the utmost discretion, so she continued to discharge that office at Strelitz with the same punctuality. Without descending from her station to an improper level, she kept an eye upon the different departments of the establishment, and the conduct of the persons to whom they were entrusted. This, however, did not proceed from parsimony, but a sense of duty, and the conviction that inattention to little things is the parent of great disorder. Every thing was conducted with uniformity; and though the etiquette of a court was regularly kept up, it was observed with as much ease as the order of a private family.

The morning hours were devoted to study and needle-work, lace-making and embroidery, at which the princesses and their ladies were remarkably expert: then, if the weather permitted, a short excursion took place round the park; and, on their return, the party dressed for dinner, which was always served up at one o'clock in public, and that with much state formality. Coffee followed, after which the company dispersed to pursue such amusements as suited their inclinations; but, in general, dancing and cards filled up the remaining part of the evening till the regular hour of retirement, which was between ten and eleven.

Such was the ordinary mode of living in the palace of Strelitz during the time of the duchess dowager,

and so it continued to be when her son returned from his travels, and took upon himself the management of his hereditary estates. Nothing, in fact, could be more amiable and praiseworthy than the conduct of this prince; for, instead of indulging that spirit of extravagance and innovation on attaining maturity, which too often plunges young men of rank in inextricable difficulties, he carefully adhered to the prudent plan laid down by his excellent parent, by whose advice and direction he cheerfully abided as long as she lived. Thus, the most complete unity prevailed within the palace, and throughout the principality, the whole of which had the appearance of one family. Of this pleasing scene, which realized the picture of a perfect court, drawn by the admirable Fenelon, an eye witness has left the following sketch:

“They have no ambition here, but that of serving their prince and country: they idle not away their time, but act with the utmost diligence in their respective departments: they behave with a just dignity and decorum, avoiding the extremes of meanness and pride: they are content with their paternal fortunes, which set them above the inordinate desire of riches: they are open and sincere, which renders them lovers of truth: they have no occasion to cringe to a prince whose aversion is flattery: they have the highest ideas of honour; and, consequently, are true to their engagements: they

have an inviolable regard for all civil duties: they have a love for their prince on account of his virtues, and esteem him for his capacity: to conclude, it may be truly said, that, instead of encouraging the ridicule of virtue, this court is a pattern of morality and religion, a school of probity and honour, a seminary of politeness, and, in fine, the seat of every social virtue. This is no exaggeration, but a fair portrait. The court of Strelitz, indeed, is not very numerous, but it is one of the most regular and most agreeable of any in the whole empire. No private family is governed with more order; and, perhaps, no prince is served by abler officers, and with greater diligence and affection. Many of the gentlemen employed in the civil department would do honour to the first court in Europe for their integrity and abilities." (Dr. Nugent's Travels in Germany, vol. I. p. 344.)

The description of the ducal residence, as given by the same accurate writer, may not be unsuitable in this place.

"In the year 1712, Adolphus-Frederic, Duke of Strelitz, and his whole family, narrowly escaped perishing in a great fire, which broke out in the night, and burned down the old palace, with all its costly furniture and valuable effects. In consequence of this misfortune, his serene highness began to erect a sumptuous palace in 1726, about two English miles from the town of Strelitz, in a very



twenty. The court chapel is in the right wing, and in the left is the grand saloon. The principal staircase is large and light, leading to a handsome hall, where the duke commonly dines. Contiguous to this hall, on the right hand, are two rooms, from whence you pass to the presence chamber and his highness's private apartments. The presence chamber is extremely beautiful, being of a due proportion, and the furniture of the highest contrivance and elegance: in the middle is a rich chair of state, intended, as I suppose, for public ceremonies. On the other side of the hall are several good rooms, which lead to a kind of gallery, from whence you advance to the grand saloon, which is truly magnificent, decorated with stucco, gilding, and every other embellishment. It is lofty and spacious, about sixty feet in length and forty in breadth, with a gallery for the music. This grand room is used only for festivals, when there are balls and assemblies; and then it is customary for the duke and the whole court to dine and sup there. The next floor is assigned for her serene highness's apartments, as well as those for the duke's brothers when they come to Strelitz, and those belonging to the dames de cour, or maids of honour. On the ground floor lodges the marshal of the court, whose apartment is neat and elegant. Proceeding from thence towards the garden, on the left hand, you find the grand apartments, which are absolutely superb. The ceiling

consists of compartments curiously wrought in stucco; the sides enriched with pictures, glasses, and other ornaments; and the furniture quite new, rich, and well chosen. The chairs are all lined with crimson damask, edged and flowered with gold; and, indeed, the whole is very splendid.

“On the right hand, opposite to these apartments, are several rooms full of curiosities and valuable moveables, but not ranged in proper order. Among other things I beheld with admiration a complete service of Chelsea porcelain, rich and beautiful in fancy beyond expression. I really never saw any Dresden porcelain near so fine: her majesty made a present of this choice collection to the duke her brother—a present worthy of so great a princess. The chapel on this side is beautifully finished, but not crowded with ornaments; the pulpit is over the altar, and round the whole runs a gallery for the duke’s household and the nobility; but the part fronting the pulpit is appropriated to his serene highness.

“From the back gate of the palace you descend by a handsome flight of stone steps into the garden, where the eye is immediately presented with a charming landscape. Before you is a beautiful parterre, leading to a double row of trees, which form the grand avenue: this is terminated by a handsome terrace, with a gradual slope to the edge of a spacious lake, on the opposite bank of which you be-

hold a pretty village ; and farther on is a vast tract of forest land outstretching the sight. On each side of the grand avenue are groves and alleys, with a variety of labyrinths ; and a curious grotto on the right hand, much admired for its shell-work. In this same grand avenue you see several statues, 'copied from antiques, and extremely well executed. On the right side of the garden' is the orangery, consisting of a spacious saloon, elegantly built, and kept in good order. On the left is a kitchen garden with pleasant walks and arbours. Before the palace is the parade, a spacious area, terminating in the deer park. On the left, of this, parade 'are some public offices, and, at a small distance, the duke's coach-house and stables."

Such was the palace of Strelitz when Dr. Nugent visited it in 1766, and met with 'the most gracious reception from the duke and his eldest sister, who lived together on the most affectionate terms. Of the former, the same author says:—" He sets an example of chastity very rare in the present age, never indulging himself in amours or intrigues, or gratifying his passion at the expense of innocence and virtue. This is the more extraordinary," adds the doctor, " as he is in the bloom of life, and not insensible to the charms of beauty. The truth is, he is sincere in his religion, and thinks it the duty of a prince to set a good example to his subjects. On Sundays and festivals he assists at

divine service with the utmost devotion, and all his household imitate so good a pattern. Yet he is quite free from affectation and bigotry, has no prejudice on account of difference of opinion, and is a declared enemy of persecution. But he is no enemy to innocent pleasure; for he is fond of balls and assemblies, where he dances and plays at cards with the ladies, and appears highly delighted with their company. His magnificence is without profuseness, and his entertainments without restraint. His table is open to the nobility of the country, as well as to foreigners of any distinction. Thus he lives like a generous prince, not inaccessible to his subjects, but diffusing his goodness, and delighting in hospitality and beneficence. Yet his finances are managed with the greatest order; and he has the happiness of being assisted by ministers perfectly acquainted with political economy. Possessed of too much sense to value himself merely for his high birth, he is the farthest of all princes from any appearance of vanity. He is possessed of very good natural parts, a quick apprehension, sound judgment, and comprehensive memory. He is master of several languages; the French in particular he speaks with great purity and ease, and he is well versed in the Italian. He uses very few diversions, neither does he seem to take sufficient exercise for his health, seldom going either hunting or shooting, but contenting himself with taking the

air in his chariot. His chief diversion is doing good, in expanding himself in acts of beneficence towards his subjects, whose happiness seems to constitute the sole object of his ambition. They repay him with the utmost gratitude: he is possessed of their love and affection: and never prince and people lived in greater harmony."

The portrait of the elder princess is no less pleasing.

"The duke's sister, Princess Christina, is in her one-and-thirtieth year, tall and genteel in her person, round faced, large blue eyes, and brown complexion. She is extremely well shaped, of an engaging carriage, and a most graceful figure, but a little marked with the small pox. Her constitution is rather delicate; but she is very good tempered, and endowed with such an affability as wins the hearts of all those who have the honour of approaching her person. She speaks good French, and with great fluency. Her countenance is dignified with an air of grandeur suitable to her rank, which she tempers in conversation with a becoming sweetness. Her words express her judgment and sound sense; and good breeding accompanies all her actions. Weaned from the vices of the age, she discovers her high birth only by solid piety and surprising goodness of heart. The improvement of her mind has been ever her chief study; so that, without flattery, I may affirm her to be adorned

with every accomplishment suited to her sex. She reads a good deal, and has lately begun to learn English. In short, her graceful and polite behaviour cannot be expressed: like her brother, she has not the least pride, nor does she affect any pre-eminence, though, besides her birth, highly entitled to it by the lustre of her princely virtues."

One of our old poets has observed, that "A virtuous court a world to virtue draws;" an assertion which is unquestionably true to a much greater extent than is generally imagined, even by those who take the closest and most correct view of the moral effects of great examples.

When the duchess dowager of Mecklenburg was forming the minds of her children, and carefully attending to the manners of her household, she had no prospect of any splendid alliances for her daughters; and it is certain that she neither indulged such ideas herself, nor suffered them to be encouraged in conversation. Totally free from worldly policy, she regulated the whole system of her maternal government by the principle of religious duty, in a pious conformity to the direction of providence. Thus laying her own foundation of happiness in the deepest humility; and feeling the benefit of it in the calm tranquillity of her passions, amidst many severe trials, she was anxious that those in whose welfare she was most tenderly interested should experience the same blessing.

The constant advice, therefore, which she inculcated was to seek felicity in unity of affection, and simplicity of action, which she justly considered as the more expedient for persons in high station, because they are peculiarly exposed to deception and temptation. There was nothing she more dreaded than the influence of that moral pestilence which had already begun to make too great a progress in Germany, through the powerful agency of Frederic, commonly called the Great, of Prussia. But the mere attraction of royalty alone did not give a charm to scepticism, for science and wit were pressed into its service; and this celebrated monarch seemed resolved, like another Julian, to destroy the Christian religion by the fascinating allurements of philosophy.

The Princess of Mecklenburg saw the danger which such an example was likely to produce; and she knew enough of human nature to be convinced that infidelity finds disciples only among those who have never studied, or comprehended the principles of truth. With this persuasion on her mind, she directed all her efforts to counteract the encroaching spirit of licentiousness in principle and practice; and she had the satisfaction of seeing the solid principles of piety, that shone so conspicuously in her own department, reflected in the conduct of her children. How stedfastly indeed they were grounded on the basis of religion, the tenour of

their lives gave abundant evidence; but one instance may here be adduced as marking a degree of exaltation in virtuous sentiment not easily paralleled. Prince Charles-Lewis, the second son, on coming of age, visited most of the courts in Germany; and as he was a very handsome young man, gay, and highly accomplished, he became an object of general admiration to the ladies. A princess belonging to one of the first houses in the empire fell violently in love with him; and an overture was made in consequence, without the smallest doubt but that it would be gladly accepted, as the proffered alliance appeared to be too advantageous to be rejected.

The prince, however, did decline it; for though the lady possessed youth, beauty, and every external attraction that might have captivated any other man, and though the family possessed great power, he could not bring himself to unite his fate to one who had expressed light notions on religious subjects.

Here the excellence of the system adopted in the education of this illustrious family became manifest in a brilliant victory over policy and the passions. This was after the mother of the prince had been called to the enjoyment of her eternal reward: but even while she was engaged, and that under very distressing circumstances, in the performance of her maternal duties, she was encouraged by the

confidence which an insight into their opening minds afforded, that her sons would prove honourable, and her daughters virtuous.

This consolation she experienced, when the flames of war, kindled by the King of Prussia, spread desolation over the territories of the minor princes of Germany. The duchy of Mecklenburg felt the tremendous scourge with peculiar severity throughout the whole of that protracted contest, which lasted from 1756 to 1763. Frederic, exasperated against the court of Schywerin for maintaining a strict neutrality while the war was raging between him and the empress queen, did every thing that a proud and vindictive spirit could devise to manifest his resentment. He not only caused his troops to march through the ducal estates, but to take up their quarters in the towns and villages, which they treated as if they were in an enemy's country. The Prussians, by their repeated wanton acts of violence, evidently followed the directions which they had received; or they knew that their conduct would not be displeasing to their master, whose generals, in fact, levied heavy contributions upon the people of Mecklenburg, forced the young men into their armies, and punished them as deserters whenever they endeavoured to make their escape.

The outrages committed under the immediate observation of the Protestant hero, as he was ridiculously termed, could not have been exceeded by

an infuriated soldiery on entering a conquered country. Complaints were useless, for they were disregarded; and resistance on the part of the oppressed peasantry only aggravated the miseries which they suffered.

On one farm alone, these ravagers levied a contribution of four thousand crowns, besides what they took as plunder and forage. Yet all this was moderation when compared with what the poor villagers endured, whose entire stock of provisions was taken away, their furniture converted into fuel, or wantonly destroyed, and themselves with their children left to perish in the depth of winter.

Thus continually exposed to fresh depredations, the people in despair, relinquished trade, and even neglected to cultivate their lands. So little indeed was property respected, that the ducal family and the nobility found it necessary to convey their plate and other valuables to Hamburg and Lubec, for security. Even the sacred ornaments and utensils of the churches were removed, or concealed, to prevent their falling into the hands of these rapacious visitors, who were represented in England as fighting for the support of liberty and religion. This, however, was a convenient pretext, of which no one knew better how to take advantage than Frederic the Great, who, in all his public declarations, artfully identified his cause with the Protestant interest, though in his heart he had no more respect for one

church than another. To the principles of genuine liberty, this monarch, with all his boasted parade of free inquiry, was a determined enemy, and it would be a difficult matter to find among his cotemporaries a man of more despotic character. Had Frederic possessed those great qualities to which he set up such high pretensions, and which were conceded to him by the sycophancy and partiality of the times, the presence of his armies in peaceful states would not have been regarded by the inhabitants with the same chill of horror as if the pestilence had entered their dwellings. This, however, was the universal feeling throughout Mecklenburg, especially when the King of Prussia made the whole country a military station, for his own defence against the incursions of the Russians and the Swedes. Allowing the necessity of this occupancy, as a measure justified by the exigency of the case, and the laws of war, no sophistry can devise a palliative for the acts of spoliation perpetrated under the authority of the Prussian commanders, in territories which it was their duty to have protected. But the people of this ill-fated country had most reason to pray for deliverance from their pretended friends, whose exactions, being perpetual, rendered the oppression intolerable, while the evils arising from the inroads of their enemy on the borders were merely a temporary inconvenience.

These calamities, which deepened in horror from

day to day, as the war proceeded, weighed so heavily on the spirits of the afflicted duchess, as to lay the foundation of that disorder which carried her ultimately to the grave. As long as the means afforded, charity was liberally distributed among the suffering poor; but, at length, the visitation became so general, that all the exertions of benevolence were inadequate to relieve even a small portion of the misery that abounded. Nothing remained to the most feeling bosom but the tear of pity, and the hope of peace. Of this last, however, the prospect appeared very faint, till the victory gained by the King of Prussia, over Marshal Daun at Torgau, on the third of November, 1760, gave a new turn to affairs. Amidst the exultation produced by that event, the younger princess of Strelitz took the surprising resolution of writing a letter to the king, more indeed as an appeal to his feelings than an address to his vanity.

The following is a translation of this pathetic epistle, the language and sentiment of which did the highest honour to the genius and spirit of the fair and illustrious writer.

“ May it please your Majesty,

“ I am at a loss whether I should congratulate or condole with you on your late victory, since the same success which has covered you with laurels has overspread the country of Mecklenburg with

desolation. I know, Sire, that it seems unbecoming my sex, in this age of vicious refinement, to feel for one's country, to lament the horrors of war, or to wish for the return of peace. I know you may think it more properly my province to study the arts of pleasing, or to inspect subjects of a more domestic nature; but, however unbecoming it may be in me, I cannot resist the desire of interceding for this unhappy people.

“It was but a very few years ago that this territory wore the most pleasing appearance. The country was cultivated, the peasant looked cheerful, and the towns abounded with riches and festivity. What an alteration at present from such a charming scene! I am not expert at description, nor can my fancy add any horrors to the picture; but surely even conquerors themselves would weep at the hideous prospects now before me. The whole country, my dear country, lies one frightful waste, presenting only objects to excite terror, pity, and despair. The employments of the husbandman and the shepherd are quite suspended; for the husbandman and the shepherd are become soldiers themselves, and help to ravage the soil which they formerly cultivated. The towns are inhabited only by old men, women, and children; while perhaps here and there a warrior, by wounds or loss of limbs rendered unfit for service, is left at his door, where his little children hang round him, ask the history of

every wound, and grow themselves soldiers before they find strength for the field. But this were nothing, did we not feel the alternate insolence of either army as it happens to advance or retreat; in pursuing the operations of the campaign. It is impossible, indeed, to express the confusion which they who call themselves our friends create, for even those from whom we might expect relief only oppress us with new calamities. From your justice, therefore, it is, Sire, that we hope redress: to you even children and women may complain, whose humanity stoops to the meanest petition, and whose power is capable of repressing the greatest wrong."

What impression this extraordinary epistle had on the personage to whom it was addressed cannot now be ascertained; but from a letter written by Frederic to his General de Zieten, in which he charges him to "revive a sense of due order in the army," it seems fair to conclude that the remonstrance had not been without effect. The language of the king is so remarkable as almost to furnish a commentary on the preceding letter. "I am determined," he says, "that henceforth all violent expedients, all exactions, all arbitrary supplies, shall cease. I shall require the whole army to pay due respect to the laws of discipline, and shall cause every transgression of those laws to be severely

punished” Why the king, who had known of these “violent expedients,” should now, for the first time, issue directions for their discontinuance, might well excite surprise in those who had for so long a space suffered under them. His sensibility and justice would certainly have been more honoured in enforcing such wholesome regulations during the heat of the war than at the close of it. The people of Germany, however, soon experienced a favourable change in their circumstances; and while the adulators of the king ascribed that effect to his magnanimity alone, there were some in the secret, who scrupled not to say that the hand of a maiden had touched the chords of his heart

Copies of the letter were in private circulation among the several courts on that part of the continent, from whence one found its way to the hands of the princess dowager of Wales, who regarded it with more admiration, as she had herself always viewed the German war with abhorrence, and held the character of the King of Prussia in contempt. The princess, however, was under the necessity of concealing her sentiments, as much as possible, in a country where the war was extremely popular, and the Prussian monarch a general favourite, though the nation had to pay him, from year to year, an enormous sum, to enable him to fight his own battles. There were not wanting intelligent persons to see

through the impolicy of such a connexion on the part of England; but their publications on the subject were considered injurious to the national honour, and the writers were covered with the most odious epithets, as the enemies of their country. The continental war was the darling object of the old monarch, George the Second, whose predilection for his electoral estates overbalanced every other concern; and no person could hope for his favour, who ventured to call in question the wisdom of an alliance which exhausted the public revenue, without any prospect of commensurate advantages for such immense sacrifices of blood and treasure.

It is true, England had gained many important acquisitions in America, which, with several splendid naval victories, afforded her the means of negotiating peace on the most honourable terms, and establishing it upon a permanent basis. But it was a problem, at the best, of no very easy solution, whether even these achievements were not dearly purchased by a German war, even on the supposition that this war had, in a direct line, operated to produce our transatlantic conquests.

The prevailing opinion at that time, however, ran in favour of the Prussian alliance, as essential even to the security of our foreign possessions, which strange infatuation was fostered by the ministry, out of complaisance to the king, and much to the benefit of the contractors. But while the

aged sovereign was waiting in great anxiety for despatches from Germany, where the aspect of affairs wore a lowering cast, he was suddenly arrested by death, at Kensington, on the morning of the twenty-fifth of October, 1760, in the seventy-seventh year of his age.

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## CHAPTER III.

*Accession of George the Third.—His Character.—Royal Anecdotes.—Character of the Princess Dowager of Wales.—Her Anxiety for the Settlement of her Son.—Inquiries respecting the Family of Mecklenburg-Strelitz.—Favourable Result.—Open Negotiation.—Declaration of the King.—Marriage Contract.—Death of the Duchess Dowager of Strelitz.—Espousals.—Departure of the Princess from Strelitz.—Feelings of the People.—Arrival at Stade.—Tedious Voyage.—Landing at Harwich, and Journey to London.—Marriage Ceremony.—Public Joy.—Addresses.—Poetical Tributes.*

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SOON after the commencement of the new reign, public curiosity was on the alert respecting the royal intentions on the subject of marriage. The delay of the coronation seemed to indicate not only that a design of this nature was then contemplated, but that negotiations were actually on foot; and yet so secretly was the affair kept, none who were about the court could form any idea of the real object upon whom the choice of the young monarch had fallen. Speculations were hazarded in abundance, but all of them were wide of the mark, because it was the general expectation that the alliance would be formed on the usual principles of

state policy, and a due regard to powerful connexions. With that view, George the Second had projected some years before his death a union between the Prince of Wales and a niece of the King of Prussia. This proposition was so gratifying to Frederic, that he embraced it with eagerness, and urged the accomplishment of it by repeated applications to the King, and the princess dowager of Wales. But though the former seconded the wishes of his brother monarch, the latter had feelings of a different kind, and sentiments more exalted than those of a political nature. She objected to the proposed marriage, because she considered her son as too young to enter into that state; and she had a still more rooted dislike to it, on account of the libertine principles which prevailed in the family. The princess wisely thought that marriages constructed on merely public grounds were ill calculated to promote either individual or national happiness; and she had the satisfaction to find her son of the same opinion. From the gentleness of his disposition, however, and the known respect which he had for his grandfather, the princess was apprehensive lest his resolution should yield to authority or persuasion. Happily, these maternal fears were soon removed; for the young prince expressed himself with such modest firmness on the subject, that the old king, after many trials, and even the offer of a splendid establishment, relin-

quished the design, with the remark, "that the boy was good for nothing, and only fit to read the Bible to his mother."

From that time, the prince lived in a very private manner, insomuch, that the nation which he was born to govern had scarcely any opportunity of becoming acquainted with his character. This was chiefly owing to the peculiar circumstances of the royal family, and the reserved manner in which the princess dowager lived at Kew and Leicester House, where she saw but little company, and was seldom visited by His Majesty, or the rest of her relations. The princess bore all this with the greatest patience, thankful, indeed, that hereby she was suffered to retain her little family together, under her own inspection, though she had to struggle through numerous difficulties, and to encounter the most acute mortifications. Under all these severe trials, she was supported by the unexampled affection and dutiful attentions of the Prince of Wales, who studied her comfort in every act and connexion of his life. There were not wanting, however, evil disposed persons, who represented this excellence of character as a proof of weakness on the part of the son, and of political artifice on that of the mother. Such is the malignity of party, that even virtues of the purest nature are sometimes distorted into obliquities; and that which ought to command universal

admiration, is held up as an object of ridicule and contempt. The privacy in which the prince lived, and his refusal of an establishment, 'on the conditions with which it was shackled, did infinitely more honour to his integrity and forbearance than credit to the liberality of ministers or the nation; and even Parliament itself could hardly be justified, for its indifference to the situation of the heir apparent, and the straitened circumstances of the princess dowager of Wales with her family.

The death of George the Second made a surprising change in the face of the political horizon; and they who had scarcely taken any notice of the prince in public, for fear of giving offence, were now the loudest in his praises, and the most obsequious in their respects.

He had but just completed his twenty-second year: a time of life the most critical for the attainment of power, and particularly so to one who may be said to have lived hitherto almost in a state of seclusion from the eminence which he was destined to occupy. His education had not been neglected, though it was made an object of fierce contention among the courtiers, some of whom presented serious remonstrances to the king, in which they complained heavily of the mode of instruction pursued by the tutors, who were even accused of being Jacobites. These charges, upon examination,

period fallacious; but the prince suffered in being thus made the sport of party, and, worse than all, from the neglect with which he was treated by the king, who seldom took the trouble to make any inquiries about the progress which he made, or the competency of those to whom his education was entrusted.

On one occasion, when the young prince was not ten years old, the king, just as he was about to set off for Hanover, sent Baron Stainberg to examine the children of Prince Frederic in their learning. The baron discharged his office very punctually, by taking them all in due course; and at the conclusion said to Prince George, that he would tell the king what a great proficiency his highness had made in his Latin, but that he wished he would be a little more perfect in his German grammar, as it would be of signal use to him. "German grammar! German grammar!" retorted the prince: "why, any dull child can learn that!" This witticism, which would have tickled any other man, gave great offence to the old monarch.

These incidents throw light upon the history of the times, and they afford a clue to the events which distinguished the early part of the new reign.

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of Prussia, however expedient it might be to maintain the engagements which had been entered into with that potentate. The letter of the young Princess of Mecklenburg was certainly calculated to heighten this aversion to the war, the calamities of which it so pathetically depicted; and the perusal as naturally excited the most favourable sentiments of the talents, the spirit, and the sensibility of the writer.

The princess dowager, with the feeling of a mother who had the real happiness of her son at heart, hailed this circumstance as conducive to that object. Accordingly, with the full consent of the king, she caused secret inquiries to be made at Strelitz about every branch of the ducal family, but more particularly in regard to the person and qualifications of the youngest daughter. This delicate business was entrusted to a person of sound judgment and integrity, who conducted it with such precision and caution, that while the completest information was obtained, not the slightest suspicion arose on the subject of the mission either in Germany or England. When the princess dowager had obtained entire satisfaction, she transmitted a letter by General Græme, in the same private manner, to the Duchess of Mecklenburg, who received the overture with the greatest surprise. It has been said that at this time a Scotch duke was then actually present in the court of Strelitz, as a suitor to

the elder princess, and that his addresses were favoured on every side, when this unexpected proposal put an end to the courtship, much to the regret of the young couple, both of whom remained single to the end of their days.

Let this story be as it may; the correspondence between the princess dowager and the Duchess of Mecklenburg soon came to a point that only required an open declaration on the part of the king, and a formal course of proceeding according to the etiquette usual on such occasions. Still, even up to this period, the most profound secrecy had been observed, so that none of the persons about the British court had the slightest conception of what was passing. The principal reason for this silence appears to have been an apprehension lest the spirit of party should interpose to raise a clamour against the marriage, as one beneath the dignity of a great nation, and contrary to the political interests which ought to be consulted on such occasions.

The project of a matrimonial alliance with the house of Brandenburg has been already mentioned, and it still continued to be entertained by many persons of great weight and influence, particularly the Duke of Cumberland, and his sister Amelia, whose conduct to the princess had been such as to make them jealous of any union that might be formed under her direction.

At length, on the eighth of July, 1761, an extra-

ordinary council was convened, which was very numerously attended, though it is a fact that few of the members knew for what purpose they were assembled, till the king himself delivered this declaration to the president:

“Having nothing so much at heart as to procure the welfare and happiness of my people, and to render the same stable, and permanent to posterity, I have, ever since my accession to the throne, turned my thoughts towards the choice of a princess for my consort; and I now, with great satisfaction, acquaint you, that after the fullest information, and mature deliberation, I am come to a resolution to demand in marriage the Princess Charlotte of Mecklenburg Strelitz; a princess distinguished by every eminent virtue and amiable endowment, whose illustrious line has constantly shewn the firmest zeal for the Protestant religion, and a particular attachment to my family. I have judged proper to communicate to you these my intentions, in order that you may be fully apprised of a matter so highly important to me and to my kingdoms, and which, I persuade myself, will be most acceptable to all my loving subjects.”

Though the council were taken by surprise, the royal resolution was received with all proper respect; and the same evening the declaration appeared in an extraordinary gazette, accompanied by an order for solemnizing the ceremony of the coronation,

on the twenty-second of September. In the mean time, the Earl of Harcourt hastened to Strelitz to conclude the treaty of marriage in form, and to accompany the queen to England, while Admiral Lord Anson proceeded with the royal yachts and ships of war to Cuxhaven. Before the arrival of the British ambassador in Mecklenburg, the duchess dowager died, which occasioned a little delay; but on the fifteenth of August the customary formalities of affiancing took place, and her serene highness received the compliments of the states of the country on the occasion, after which a sumptuous entertainment was given, at which the bride-elect dined at a separate table, with the Princess of Schwartzburg, her grand-aunt, and the Princess Christina, her sister. His serene highness the duke dined with the English minister, and several ladies and gentlemen, at a large table in the saloon. Four tables, with upwards of one hundred and sixty covers, were served in two other apartments. In the evening the gardens of the castle were illuminated with above forty thousand lamps; the whole town also exhibited similar splendour; and the next day there was a grand festival.

These rejoicings, however, were mixed with some painful sensations at the idea of being separated from a beloved object, whose face few in that country could ever hope to behold again. The scene of parting in the family was also exceedingly affect-

ing, and evinced how much the princess, whose elevation every one contemplated with pride, deserved a throne by the goodness of her heart. But the sentiment was not confined to the palace, as appeared in the extraordinary manner with which the inhabitants of the old town of Strelitz took their leave of the princess.

Of this spectacle the following account was drawn up by an eye witness:

“ On the seventeenth of August, 1761, was erected in a plain a triumphal arch, thirty-two feet in height, with two pillars in front; and close to it was a platform of five hundred paces, on which were drawn up the three companies of the town militia, under arms, with their colours flying. On each side of the front of the arch were two green bowers, and a tent, with a variety of refreshments for the spectators, of whom there was a prodigious number from the towns in the neighbourhood, so that they covered the heights all round the place: and the multitudes of persons, horses, and carriages, formed altogether a very lively scene.

“ The triumphal arch was decorated with natural foliage and festoons, and over it were two terrestrial globes, having on the first Europe, Asia, and Africa, and on the other America. These globes were surmounted with the arms of Great Britain and Mecklenburg united. On the back part of the triumphal arch were represented autumn and spring in their

attributes of ripe fruits and flowers, with an inscription to this effect,

“ Pomona soon succeeds to Flora,  
And the bridal chamber supersedes the grave.”

This last-line had an allusion to the demise of the duchess dowager of Mecklenburg, who died soon after General Græme demanded the princess in marriage, and consequently had not the pleasure of witnessing her daughter's happiness.

“ On each side within the arch stood six respectable townsmen's daughters, between eleven and twelve years of age, in white jackets and petticoats, with light blue ribbands, and their hair dressed in natural flowers. Each had in her hand a wreath of myrtle, something larger than a crown; thus waiting the coming of the princess.

“ On the skirt of the field towards new Strelitz stood a captain of Mecklenburg horse, in a blue uniform, with sixteen troopers, in order to join the cavalcade attending on her serene highness, and to conduct the whole to the above-mentioned platform.

“ This illustrious procession was headed by Marshal Zesterfleth, with two running footmen; then came, in coaches and six, our beloved sovereign the duke, with his brother Prince Charles, attended by several running footmen, and a body of horseguards; and as they passed under the arch, the burghers saluted them with arms, colours, and music.

“After the march of the horse, came the royal bride herself, in a coach of state, drawn by six horses, the princess her sister sitting on her left hand, and in the front of the coach the Countess Cocceius. Her highness was pleased to stop under the arch, when the burgomaster Tangatz, in the name of the corporation and citizens, delivered the following address :

“Illustrious duchess, most gracious princess, and lady, your royal highness is at present leaving that country whose happiness it has hitherto been to admire in you the model of a perfect princess. You leave it to share with the greatest monarch in Europe a throne respected through every part of the universe. The instant is at hand when your royal highness will, for ever, be withdrawn from our eyes. This affects us the more sensibly under the apprehension that the many great and brilliant objects with which you will henceforth be encircled will efface so small a place as our's from your inestimable remembrance; yet that goodness which we have hitherto, with transport, admired in your royal highness, revives our spirits: it assures us that you will even from the throne condescend graciously to look back on our town, and continue to be the patroness of those whose happiness it is to be the subjects of your illustrious family. We, therefore, in full confidence, give ourselves up to that lively joy excited in us all on the glorious union to which

the divine Providence has called your royal highness, and beg leave to accompany you with our most cordial wishes for your safe journey, and continual welfare and prosperity.

“May the eternal Ruler of all things, who hath appointed this great event, make your royal highness the most perfect instance of felicity, the delight of that illustrious family into which you are now entering, the joy of Britain, and the glory of the illustrious house of Mecklenburg!

“May our gracious sovereign, the beloved Adolphus-Frederic, long, and in all earthly happiness, together with his faithful subjects, rejoice in these felicities!

“Your royal highness will graciously permit that twelve of our daughters here present, in the attire of innocence, may, as a memorial of this fortunate event, second the ardent sentiments of their fathers, and in artless words most humbly wish you a safe and pleasant journey.

“This address being concluded, the children repeated their congratulatory verses, after which, with a graceful respect, they threw their myrtle wreaths into the coach to her highness, who expressed her satisfaction in those gracious terms which were ever natural to her, and by which in her tender years she conciliated the unalterable love and esteem of all ranks.

“This ceremony ended, the procession continued

its course. After her serene highness, immediately followed a party of twelve of the horse guards, an empty coach and six, then the Earl of Harcourt with his son, likewise in a coach and six, which nobleman was observed to view with pleasure the emblems over the arch; and the twelve children, who had acquitted themselves so handsomely, and to each of whom he gave a ducat. After the earl, came Counsellor Hardenburg of Hanover; and the cavalcade was closed by near thirty coaches."

The illustrious party took the road to Mirow, where another affecting scene occurred in the final separation of the two sisters at the place of their nativity; nor did this touching picture lose any of its effect by the overflowing feelings of their old nurse, Mrs. Wilbergen, who wept aloud as she bade an eternal adieu to the object whom she idolized.

On the eighteenth the princess arrived at Perleburg, in the marquisate of Brandenburg, where she was complimented on the part of his Prussian majesty, who also gave orders that no charge should be made for post-horses while she passed through his territories: but this favour her serene highness eluded by making a handsome present to the escort that accompanied her out of the Prussian dominions. The next day she continued her route by Lentzen, and on the twentieth reached Gohrde, where she rested, and after dining in public, took a walk in the park. In the boat in which she crossed a branch of the

Elbe, on the twenty-second, was fixed a table, covered with all sorts of fruit. When she landed on the other side, there being no house, huts were prepared for her attendants, and a grand tent for herself, in which she dined. The dinner at this place was provided for three hundred persons, by His Majesty's cooks, who came from Hanover for that purpose. The same evening, at seven o'clock, she made her entry into Stade, with a train of six coaches, escorted by a guard of Hanoverian horse. All the cannon on the walls were fired, the bells rung throughout the place, and at night there was a general illumination. The burgesses under arms lined the street through which the cavalcade passed; and at the end of it a triumphal arch was erected, ornamented with various emblems and inscriptions in Latin. The same evening the members of the Hamburg company were introduced, when an appropriate address was delivered to her serene highness, who received the gentlemen very courteously, and returned them a short answer in the German language. At the same time, some of the principal ladies of the town presented her with congratulatory verses, upon rich velvet cushions.

The next day, being Sunday, her serene highness rested at Buxtehude, and on Monday morning, at half past nine, she left Stade in the admiralty barge, with the royal standard flying, accompanied

by her brother, Prince Charles, the Earl of Harcourt, and Lord Anson. On passing down the river, which was lined on each side with spectators, the fort and ships saluted, and in about an hour her highness reached the Royal Charlotte yacht, which was dressed in the colours of all nations; but the moment she came on board these flags were struck, and the royal standard hoisted at the main top-mast head, the admiralty flag at the fore-top, and the union at the mizen. The Lynx sloop of war now hoisted the admiral's flag, and gave the signal, on which all the ships fired a salute of twenty-one guns each.

Her serene highness then said, "Is it possible that I can be worthy of all these honours?" This drew tears of joy from the Duchess of Ancaster, to whom, and the Duchess of Hamilton, when they were introduced, and were kneeling to kiss her hand, she as nobly said, "She hoped friendship might take place of ceremony between them," and then saluted them both.

Soon after this, the wind which had blown fresh some days, began to increase, in consequence of which the yacht lay at anchor all that day.

On the twenty-fifth, the Royal Charlotte got under sail about nine in the morning, and passed the Danish fort of Gluckstadt, which, strangely enough, paid no honours to the English standard. That

night the vessel again anchored, and the next morning reached Cuxhaven, where salutes were fired from the batteries on each side, and the brother of her serene highness went on shore. An attempt was now made to push out to the red buoy; but the wind being adverse, and the sea excessively boisterous, the admiral judiciously returned to anchor in the road of Cuxhaven, where the yacht lay till Friday morning, and then joined the large ships, who saluted as she came up, and the Nottingham of sixty guns hoisted the admiral's flag. The squadron then proceeded to sea; for though the weather was exceedingly tempestuous, and the winds adverse, there was great anxiety on the part of the king that the ceremony of the marriage should precede that of the coronation; the time appointed for which was now very near at hand. Every exertion was, therefore, made by Lord Anson to reach the Nore, but the wind blew so directly against him, that he could not even make any English port on the east coast with safety. Twice Flamborough Head appeared in view, but the ships were as repeatedly driven to sea again, by the violence of the gale, in which every one of them suffered some damage. Thus, for the space of ten days, were they baffled in their attempts to make a harbour; in the morning filled with hopes of landing their charge on English ground, and in the evening apprehensive of being driven on the coast

of Norway. Such was the fury of the tempest, that it was feared it would have proved of serious consequence to one who had never seen the ocean. But her highness was very little, if at all, affected with sea-sickness; and while the two duchesses were exceedingly ill, she bore the voyage with uncommon spirits, walking about the cabin, talking freely with the officers, and occasionally playing on the harpsichord.

At length the yacht entered the road of Harwich, on Sunday evening; but it being late, and no preparations made for the reception of the princess, she remained on board till three o'clock the next day. During this interval, a messenger had been sent to London, where all was hurry and confusion.

Never, perhaps, was public impatience carried higher than at this period. The people watched the wind every morning with as much anxiety as if they were in eager expectation of the arrival of a near relative; and it being generally supposed that the royal yacht would enter the Thames for the purpose of landing the princess at Greenwich, where great preparations were made for her reception, the bustle on the river increased every day after it was known that she had taken her departure from Strelitz. Houses, pleasure-boats, and barges, were hired all along the river wherever there was the least hope of seeing this interesting visitor. When the news of her arrival became known,

all the horses and carriages in and about London were put in requisition; and the Essex road was literally covered with anxious spectators.

At three in the afternoon, on Monday, September the seventh, the bride-elect first set foot on English ground, at Harwich, where she was received by the mayor and aldermen of the corporation in their formalities, amidst an immense assemblage of persons of all ranks, who hailed her appearance with loud acclamations. About five o'clock the same day she came to Colchester, where she stopped, and took tea at the house of Mr. Enew: while there, she received a box of eringo root, the product of that town, and which, according to ancient custom, is always presented to any of the royal family who visit that place. From Colchester she proceeded to Witham, the seat of Lord Abercorn, who was not present to do the honours of his house to so illustrious a guest. However, as elegant an entertainment was provided as the time would permit: and during supper, the door of the room was left wide open, that all persons might have the pleasure of seeing their future queen; on one side of whose chair stood the Earl of Harcourt, and on the other Lord Anson. The next morning, a little after twelve o'clock, she came to Rumford, where she alighted, and took coffee at the house of Mr. Dutton, a wine merchant. At Rumford she was met by the king's servants;

and about one o'clock entered His Majesty's coach with the Duchesses of Ancaster and Hamilton. She was now dressed entirely in the English fashion, having a fly cap, with rich laced lappets, a stomacher ornamented with diamonds, and a gold brocade suit, with a white ground. Her coach was preceded by three of the royal carriages, in which were the several ladies of her suite, both English and German. Perceiving the eagerness manifested by the people, who thronged the roads as she passed to have a view of her person, she expressed her desire that the pace might be moderated, to gratify public curiosity, while, at intervals, she bowed most courteously to those who greeted her approach. The whole of her behaviour indicated a most agreeable temper; and every one who had an opportunity of observing her manner was quite charmed with the gracefulness of her deportment, and the strong tokens of sensibility and goodness which appeared in her countenance.

Parties of the Leicestershire militia were posted in all the towns through which she had to pass; and at Mile End she was met by the Life Guards, who accompanied her the remainder of the way, by Islington and the New Road, then through Hyde Park, and down Constitution Hill to St. James's, where she was handed out of the carriage by the Duke of York, and received by the king, who raised her up and saluted her just as she was about to drop on her

knee to pay him obeisance. His Majesty then took her by the hand, and leading her into the palace, introduced her to the princess dowager of Wales, and the several branches of the royal family, who were assembled to welcome her arrival. After dinner she made her appearance in the gallery, and at different windows of the palace, that the people who crowded every avenue might gratify their loyal feelings, the loud expression of which evidently afforded great satisfaction to the royal pair.

About nine o'clock in the evening, the procession to the chapel commenced in the following order.

### THE BRIDE'S PROCESSION.

Drums and Trumpets.

The Serjeant Trumpeter.

The Princess's Servants.

A Page.

A Quarter Waiter.

A Gentleman Usher, between the Two Senior Heralds.

Vice Chamberlain.

Maids of Honour.

Ladies of the Bed Chamber, not Peeresses.

Peeresses.

Unmarried Daughters of Peers.

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| King's            | King's            |
| Vice Chamberlain. | Lord Chamberlain. |

### THE BRIDE,

In her Nuptial Habit, supported by their Royal Highnesses the Duke of York, and Prince William-Henry,

Her Train borne by Ten unmarried Daughters of Dukes  
and Earls, viz.

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Lady Sarah Lenox.        | Lady Caroline Russel.   |
| Lady Ann Hamilton.       | Lady Elizabeth Ker.     |
| Lady Harriet Bentinck.   | Lady Caroline Montague. |
| Lady Elizabeth Keppel.   | Lady Louisa Greville.   |
| Lady Elizabeth Harcourt. | Lady Susan Strangeways. |

Her serene highness having been in this manner  
conducted to the chapel, the Lord of the Flain and  
Vice Chamberlain, with the two Heralds, returned  
to wait upon His Majesty.

### THE KING'S PROCESSION.

Drums and Trumpets, as before.

The Knight Marshal.

Puisivants and Heralds at Arms.

Knights of the Bath, not Peers, wearing their Collars.

Privy Councillors, not Peers.

Comptroller and Treasurer of the Household.

Barons.

Bishops in their Rochets.

Viscounts.

Earls.

Lord Steward of the Household.

Marquises.

Dukes.

Norroy, and Clarenceux Kings of Arms.

|               |   |                  |   |               |
|---------------|---|------------------|---|---------------|
| Two Serjeants | } | Lord Privy Seal. | } | Two Serjeants |
| at Arms.      |   | Lord President.  |   | at Arms.      |
|               |   | Lord Chancellor. |   |               |

Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.

Garter Principal King of Arms, with his White Rod or Sceptre, between Two Gentlemen Ushers.

The Earl Marshal.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland.

His Royal Highness Prince Frederic.

His Royal Highness Prince Henry.

The Sword of State, borne by the Duke of Bedford, Knight of the Garter, in his Collar, between the Lord Chamberlain and Vice Chamberlain.

The KING, wearing his Collar.

|                |            |                |
|----------------|------------|----------------|
| Captain of the | Captain    | Captain        |
| Yeomen of the  | of the     | of the Band of |
| Guard.         | Life Guard | Pensioners.    |

The Gentlemen of the Bed Chamber in waiting.

The Master of the Robes.

Two Grooms of the Bed Chamber.

Gentlemen Pensioners.

The ceremony was performed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Duke of Cumberland giving away the bride, at which moment, by signal, the Park and Tower guns were fired. Their Majesties sat on one side of the altar, on two state chairs, under a canopy; her royal highness the princess dowager facing them, on a chair of state, on the other side: all the rest of the royal family on stools, and all the peers, peeresses, bishops, and foreign ministers, on benches. The following anthem, composed by Doctor Boyce, was then sung by the gentlemen of the chapel royal.

## A GRAND FESTIVAL SYMPHONY.

## CHORUS.

The King shall rejoice in thy strength, O Lord: exceeding glad shall he be of thy salvation.

## DUET.

Thou hast given him his heart's desire; and hast not denied him the request of his lips.

## CHORUS REPEATED.

Blessed is the man that hath a virtuous wife; for the number of his days shall be doubled.

## SOLO.

A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: her price is far above rubies.

Strength and honour are her cloathing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.

## SOLO.

Hearken, O daughter, consider and incline thine ear; forget thine own people, and thy father's house.

So shall the king have pleasure in thy beauty.

Instead of thy father, thou shalt have children, whom thou mayest make princes in all lands.

## CHORUS.

Children are an heritage of the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

Lo! thus shall they be blessed that fear the Lord. Hallelujah!

The anthem being ended, the procession returned in the following order.

Drums and Trumpets.

Serjeant Trumpeter.

The Queen's Servants.

A Page.

A Quarter Waiter.

A Gentleman Usher, between Two Heralds.

Pursuivants and Heralds at Arms.

Knights of the Bath, not Peers.

Privy Councillors, not Peers.

Unmarried Daughters of Peers.

Peeresses.

Peers, as before.

Norroy, and Clarenceux Kings at Arms.

Lord Privy Seal.

Lord President.

Lord Chancellor.

Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.

Garter, between Two Gentlemen Ushers.

The Earl Marshal.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland.

His Royal Highness Prince Frederic.

His Royal Highness Prince Henry.

The Sword of State between the Lord Chamberlain and Vice Chamberlain.

### THE KING.

The Three Captains of the Guard.

The Gentlemen of the Bed Chamber in waiting.

Master of the Robes.

Two Grooms of the Bed Chamber.

## THE QUEEN.

Conducted by the Lord Chamberlain and Vice Chamberlain, supported by their Royal Highnesses the Duke of York and Prince William, her Train borne as before.

The Ladies of Her Majesty's Bed Chamber in waiting,  
Maids of Honour.

Gentlemen Pensioners.

There was afterwards a public drawing-room, but no presentations took place that evening. The houses in the cities of London and Westminster were illuminated, and the night was concluded with the utmost demonstrations of joy.

A very lively picture of the public anxiety at that time is given in a letter written by Mr. Horace Walpole, afterwards Lord Orford, to the Earl of Strafford.

"Nothing," says he, "was ever equal to the bustle and uncertainty of the town for these three days. The Queen was seen off the coast on Saturday last, and is not arrived yet; nay, last night, at ten o'clock, it was neither certain where she landed, nor when she would be in town. I forgive history for knowing nothing, when 'so public an event as the arrival of a new queen is a mystery even at this very moment in St. James's Street. The messenger that brought the letter yesterday morning, said, she *arrived* at half an hour after four at Harwich. This was immediately translated into *landing*," and

notified in those words to the ministers. Six hours afterwards it proved no such thing, and that she was only in Harwich Road: and they recollected that *half an hour after four* happens twice in twenty-four hours, and the letter did not specify which of the *twices* it was. Well! the bridemaids whipped on their virginity; the New Road and the parks were thronged; the guns were choaking with impatience to go off, and Sir James Lowther, who was to pledge His Majesty, was actually married to Lady Mary Stuart. Five, six, seven, eight o'clock came, and no queen. She lay at Witham, at Lord Abercorn's, who was most tranquilly in town; and it is not certain even whether she will be composed enough to be in town to-night. She has been sick but half an hour; sung and played on the harpsichord all the voyage, and been cheerful the whole time."

In a postscript to the same letter, the facetious writer adds, "Madam Charlotte is this instant arrived. The noise of coaches, chaises, horsemen, mob, that have been to see her pass through the parks is so prodigious that I cannot distinguish the guns. I am going to be dressed, and before seven shall be launched into the crowd."

In another letter, written to General Conway, then in Ireland, Mr. Walpole gave a very characteristic sketch of the Queen, with some anecdotes, which cannot be told so well as in his own words.

“The date of my promise is now arrived, and I fulfil it—fulfil it with great satisfaction, for the Queen is come. I have seen her, have been presented to her, and may go back to Strawberry. For this fortnight I have lived upon the road between Twickenham and London. I came, grew impatient, returned; came again, still to no purpose. The yacht made the coast of Suffolk last Saturday, on Sunday entered the road of Harwich, and on Monday morning, the king’s chief eunuch, as the Tripoline ambassador calls Lord Anson, landed the princess. She lay that night at Lord Abercorn’s, at Witham, the palace of Silence; and yesterday, at a quarter after three, arrived at St. James’s. In half an hour, one heard of nothing but proclamations of her beauty: every body was content, every body pleased. At seven one went to court. The night was sultry. About ten, the procession began to move towards the chapel, and at eleven they all came up into the drawing-room. She looks very sensible, cheerful, and is remarkably genteel. Her tiara of diamonds was very pretty; her stomacher sumptuous; her violet-velvet mantle and ermine so heavy, that the spectators knew as much of her upper half as the king himself. You will have no doubt of her sense by what I shall tell you. On the road they wanted her to curl her toupet: she said she thought it looked as well as that of any of the ladies sent to fetch her; if the

King bid her, she would wear a periwig, otherwise she would remain as she was. When she caught the first glimpse of the palace, she grew frightened, and turned pale. The Duchess of Hamilton smiled—the princess said, “My dear duchess, you may laugh: you have been married twice, but it is no joke to me.” Her lips trembled as the coach stopped, but she jumped out with spirit, and has done nothing but with good humour and cheerfulness. She talks a great deal, is easy, civil, and not disconcerted. At first, when the bridesmaids and the court were introduced to her, she said “*Mon Dieu, il y en a tant, il y en a tant!*”—She was pleased when she was to kiss the peeresses: but Lady Augusta was forced to take her hand and give it to those that were to kiss it, which was prettily humble and good-natured. While they waited for supper, she sat down, sung, and played. Her French is tolerable: she exchanged much both of that and German with the King, the duke, and the Duke of York. They did not get to bed till two. To-day was a drawing-room: every body was presented to her: but she spoke to nobody, as she could not know a soul. The crowd was much less than at a birth-day; the magnificence very little more. The King looked very handsome, and talked to her continually, and with great good humour. It does not promise as if they two would

tance, not a fiftieth part could gain an entrance, to the infinite disappointment of many thousands.

Much mischief was done, and one or two persons lost their lives by being trampled upon in the crowd, which was so closely compacted together, as to be totally immoveable, while they who were thus wedged in, experienced a sense of suffocation that could only be compared to the miseries endured by the sufferers in the black hole of Calcutta.

Among the numerous addresses which poured in upon the occasion of the royal nuptials, one from the ladies of St. Albans was of so extraordinary a cast as to merit particular notice and selection.

“TO THE QUEEN’S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

“The humble address of the LADIES of the Borough of St. Albans, in the County of Hertford.

“May it please your Majesty.

“We your Majesty’s most dutiful and affectionate subjects, being by *custom* precluded from being named in the address of the mayor and corporation of this place, beg leave to approach your majesty with the warmest congratulations on your happy nuptials.

“Formed by nature, and improved by the completest education, you were selected by the best of kings, to add the only happiness that was wanting to his majesty in the world.

“As subjects are greatly influenced by the example of their sovereign, we have the greatest reason to hope that the matrimonial state will be duly honoured by your majesty’s dutiful subjects, cheerfully following the royal example, an example too much wanted in this degenerate age, wherein that happy state is made the object of ridicule instead of respect, by too many of vain, giddy, and dissipated minds. If the riches of a nation consists in its populousness, this happy country will in that respect too soon become poor, whilst the lawful means to continue posterity are either shackled by the restraint of mistaken laws, or despised by those who regard none.

“But as every virtuous and commendable action is encouraged by your royal consort’s, and your own noble sentiments and conduct, we hope this example will be duly followed by your majesty’s loyal subjects.

“That you may long remain a pattern of conjugal fidelity and happiness, and see a numerous offspring grow up as tender plants under your maternal influence, to be a blessing to their royal parents and to this nation, are the sincere and ardent wishes of your majesty’s most dutiful and devoted subjects,

THE LADIES OF ST. ALBANS.”

This address, from its singularity, could not fail to excite general observation, and some amusement.

It accordingly gave rise to the following piece of humour.

“ TO THE QUEEN’S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

“ The unanimous petition of the maidens of these realms, of thirty years of age and upwards,

“ Humbly sheweth,

“ That we, your petitioners, encouraged by the great condescension and goodness with which your majesty was pleased to receive the address from the ladies of St. Albans, are emboldened more fully to make known our grievances, which that address only hinted at. We are, Madam, by our own appellation, prudent women, but in the vulgar style, old maids; a name, already become dreadful to the young women of this nation, and will, we imagine, in time, be more so than that of a wanton. This we have the more reason to fear, since there is scarce a married woman who does not look upon us with contempt, from the day she is made a bride, which not only causes the single men to place a great value on themselves, but (what we most regret) shews a great want of delicacy in many of our sex, who esteem themselves virtuous. These are mortifications—yet are we obliged to endure still greater, nor are we ashamed to confess our chagrin, when we see men of sense, and, in other respects, good morals, who, instead of being fathers

of religious and well-governed families, and supporting friends to the truly valuable of our sex, do, by their familiarity with the vilest, give them a power to treat us, as they do God's laws, with open defiance, since they cannot but be conscious of the ascendancy they have over the hearts and affections of many whom we could wish to call husbands. Therefore, most noble princess, your petitioners most humbly beg leave to hope that, through your majesty's intercession, the King will be pleased to cause a high tax to be laid on each single man of the age of thirty-six, who has ever been detected in a criminal intrigue (and doubled if with a married woman), or through vanity has boasted of favours to the dishonour of our sex. From this tax (as it is presumed it will be proportioned to the fortune of the offender) may be raised a considerable sum, which, as money is now wanting to carry on the war, will be of great benefit to the nation. We mean not to direct the legislature, a province not our's, yet we humbly conceive that the gentlemen of the army, who may now be said to be fighting in our defence, shall pass tax free till the day peace is proclaimed; but to shew we mean not to be partial to the red coats, (of which all women are accused) we propose that they, as well as others, be taxed from that day: and we humbly hope, through your majesty's influence, that the sum so raised annually shall, from the day of peace, be appropriated to

our use, for the support of neglected and superannuated virgins: and to shew we mean not to encroach on the other sex, we further propose, that no single woman shall have a claim on the fund thus to be raised till she is forty years of age, and then a maiden on her oath. This must be allowed generous, since we become a bye-word ten years earlier; nor shall any maiden be allowed her claim who has been heard to explode the marriage state:—and further to shew our candour, we propose that each single man, at the age of thirty-six, or upwards, who will swear himself a true bachelor, shall be exempt from the said tax; for the single life, if godly, is praiseworthy.

“Thus, madam, should we be so happy as to succeed under your majesty’s auspicious influence, then may we vie with the matrons for merit; nor shall we regret being neglected by the men, since the being protected by a queen, adorned with so many shining virtues, shall cast a lustre on us, and shew the world in general, and the men in particular, that it is their want of discernment, not our’s, of true worth, that has kept us single.”

Though the muses could not be silent on an event so peculiarly adapted to call forth their happiest strains, the published effusions were in general more distinguished by loyalty than sublimity. The two best productions were an address to the Queen, by Mr. Thomas Warton, of Oxford, and an elegant

little fable, the composition of an anonymous writer, with both of which this chapter shall be concluded.

### TO THE QUEEN.

When first the kingdom to thy virtues due  
Rose from the billowy deep in distant view ;  
When Albion's isle, old Ocean's peerless pride,  
Tower'd in imperial state above the tide  
What bright ideas of the new domain,  
Form'd the fair prospect of thy promis'd reign !

And well with conscious joy thy breast might beat,  
That Albion was ordain'd thy royal seat ;  
Lo ! this the land, where freedom's sacred rage  
Has glow'd untam'd, through many a martial age.  
Here patriot ALFRED, stain'd with Danish blood,  
Rear'd on one base, the king's, the people's good :  
Here HENRY's archers fram'd the stubborn bow,  
That laid Alanzon's haughty helmet low :  
Here wak'd the flame, that still superior braves  
The proudest threats of Gaul's ambitious slaves :  
Here chivalry, stern school of valour old,  
Her noblest feats of knightly fame enroll'd :  
Heroic champions heard the clarion's call,  
And throng'd the board in EDWARD's banner'd hall :  
While chiefs, like GEORGE, approv'd in worth alone,  
Unlock'd chaste beauty's adamant zone.

Lo ! the fam'd isle, which hails thy chosen sway,  
What fertile fields her temperate suns display !  
Where property secures the conscious swain,  
And guards, while plenty gives, the golden grain ;  
Hence, ripe with stores her villages abound,  
Her airy downs with scatter'd sheep resound.

Fresh are her pastures with unceasing rills,  
And future navies crown her darksome hills.  
To bear her formidable glory far,  
Behold her opulence of hoarded war !  
See, from her ports a thousand banners stream,  
On every coast her vengeful lightnings gleam !  
Meantime, remote from ruin's armed hand,  
In peaceful majesty her cities stand ;  
Where splendid domes, and tradesful sheets declare,  
Their firmest fort, a King's parental care.

And, O ! blest Queen, if e'er the magic powers  
Of warbled truth have won thy musing hours ;  
Here Poesy, from awful days of yore,  
Has pour'd her genuine gifts of raptur'd lore.  
Mid oaken bowers, with holy verdure wreath'd,  
In druid-songs her solemn spirit breath'd :  
While cunning bards, at ancient banquets, sung  
Of paynim foes defy'd, and trophies hung.  
Here Spenser tun'd his mystic minstrelsy,  
And dress'd in fairy robes a Queen like thee.  
Here, boldly mark'd with every living hue,  
Nature's unbounded portrait Shakspeare drew :  
But chief, the dreadful group of human woes  
The daring artist's tragic pencil chose ;  
Explor'd the pangs that rend the royal breast,  
Those wounds that lurk beneath the tissu'd vest !  
Lo ! this the land, whence Milton's muse of fire,  
High soar'd to steal from heaven a seraph's lyre,  
And told the golden ties of wedded love  
In sacred Eden's amaranthine grove.  
Thine too, majestic bride, the favour'd clime,  
Where science sits enshrin'd in roofs sublime,

O mark how green her wood of ancient bays  
 O'er Isis' marge in many a chaplet strays!  
 Thither, if haply some distinguish'd flower  
 Of these mix'd blooms from that ambrosial bowel,  
 Might catch thy glance, and rich in nature's hue,  
 Entwine thy diadem with honour due;  
 If seemly gifts the train of Phœbus pay,  
 To deck imperial Hymen's festive day;  
 Thither thyself shall haste, and mildly deign  
 To tread with nymph-like step the conscious plain:  
 Pleas'd in the muse's nook, with decent pride,  
 To throw the scepter'd pall of state aside,  
 Nor from the shade shall GEORGE be long away,  
 Which claims CHARLOTTA'S love, and courts her stay.  
 These are Britannia's praises. Deign to trace,  
 With rapt reflection, freedom's favourite race.  
 But though the generous isle, in arts and arms,  
 Thus stands supreme, in nature's choicest charms;  
 Though GEORGE and conquest guard her sea-girt throne,  
 One happier blessing still she calls her own;  
 And, proud a fresh increase of fame to view,  
 Crowns all her glory by possessing you.

APOLOGUE.

One cloudy day, a drop of rain  
 (As it hung hov'ring o'er the main)  
 Cry'd out with innate modesty,  
 "What can I add, oh flood! to thee?  
 "When once upon thy surface toss'd,  
 "In thy immensity I'm lost;

“ Of no importance to thy wave,  
“ I seem at least to meet my grave.  
“ Oh! why should Jove, all good, all wise,  
“ The least of all his creatures prize?  
“ Why should his blessings downwards fly,  
“ On such a worthless form as I?”  
With pleasure, Jove his ear inclin’d,  
To one so humble, so resign’d:  
True merit claims his high regard,  
And seldom loses its reward.  
This modest unambitious drop  
Soon by an oyster swallow’d up;  
Content within its shell he lies,  
And there to heaven erects his eyes.  
To Jove directs his daily pray’r,  
And thanks the Godhead for his care:  
His praises, incense like, arise,  
And as they mount perfume the skies.  
“ Pleas’d with thy prayers, and with thy praise,  
“ I’ll now,” said Jove, “ thy fortune raise.  
“ Henceforth become (so Heaven sees good)  
“ A pearl of the first magnitude.  
“ And thus transform’d, with speed resort  
“ To fair Britannia’s splendid court;  
“ There all thy radiant lustre spread  
“ Around my fav’rite CHARLOTTE’S head.  
“ Tell her ’twas I, Jove, sent thee down,  
“ To stand conspicuous on her crown;  
“ Since well I know, in her esteem,  
“ Virtue’s the brightest diadem.”

## CHAPTER IV.

*Foretastes of Happiness.—Conduct of the Queen.—Description of her Person.—Establishment of her Household.—Preparations for the Coronation.—Particulars of the Ceremony.—Anecdote of the King.—Visit to Covent Garden Theatre.—Royal Procession to the City on Lord Mayor's Day.—Visit to Mr. Barclay.—Entertainment at Guildhall.—Parliamentary Settlement of the Queen's Dower.—She attends the House of Lords.—Purchase of Buckingham House.*

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NEVER did a royal marriage occasion more gladness throughout any nation than that which now lighted up one sentiment of joy in every part of the British isles. The remotest villages manifested a similar spirit to that which prevailed in the metropolis of the empire; and there was hardly a cottage in the land that did not share in the general festivity. It seemed as if every family and individual made the event interesting to their private feelings, and regarded it as connected with their personal happiness. At this auspicious moment all hearts appeared to harmonize with each other, and to vie in nothing but the expression of sympathetic attachment to the young monarch and his blooming bride. It was, indeed, a season of felicity.

citous promise, when, in the suspension of the din of war, and the clamour of faction, the people considered their own happiness as increased by that of their sovereign. Thus it might have been said of the nuptial bower of Britain, as of that in the commencement of the social state,

“ All heaven,  
And happy constellations, in that hour,  
Shed their selectest influence: the earth  
Gave sign of gratulation, and each hill  
Joyous the birds; fresh gales and gentle airs  
Whisper'd it to the woods, and from their wings  
Flung rose, flung odours from the spicy shrub,  
Disporting, till the amorous bird of night  
Sang spousal, and bid haste the evening star  
On his hill-top, to light the bridal lamp.”

The eagerness of public expectation, in regard to the permanence of connubial affection among the great, is often clouded by their early indifference; so that the confidence excited by admiration soon sinks into contempt.

The cause of this is to be sought in the erroneous principles on which such alliances are founded. Without having an opportunity of knowing each other's tempers, and guided solely by report, the chance of happiness is infinitely outweighed by the probabilities of repentance and discord. In the present case, the balance preponderated on the

other side, owing to the motives in which the union originated. The King, instead of looking out for external charms and powerful connexions, sought a partner whose mental graces and sterling virtues, by insuring his tranquillity, would prove a blessing to his subjects. When, therefore, the letter of the Princess of Mecklenburg to the Prussian monarch came into his hands, he at once, without making any observations upon the personal attractions of the writer, concluded that he had found the object calculated to promote his felicity. "This," said he to Lord Harcourt, "is the lady whom I shall secure for my consort. Here are lasting beauties. The man who has any mind may feast, and not be satiated. If the disposition of the princess but equals her refined sense, I shall be the happiest man, as I hope, with my people's concurrence, to be the happiest monarch in Europe."

The result abundantly confirmed the prudence of the choice; and the conduct of the illustrious person, who was the object of it, soon justified the opinion on which it was founded.

Though the Queen was now only in her eighteenth year, and naturally of a vivacious turn, neither the fondness of her husband, the splendour with which she was surrounded, nor the public acclamations which followed her wherever she went, had the effect of elating her mind with vanity, or

of inducing a spirit of levity. By her affable and condescending manner to all who approached her person, she evinced a mind elevated above the dazzling eminence of a throne; and while thus she endeared herself to the people, the sweetness of her temper so-completely won the heart of the monarch, that every day witnessed increased affection.

This may be considered as the triumph of reason and virtue, for the Queen could not certainly be pronounced an absolute beauty, when the observer contemplated her person without being affected by the charm of royalty.

She was described at this time as being of a middling stature, and rather small, but her shape fine, and carriage graceful; her hands and neck exceedingly well turned; her hair auburn; her face round and fair; the eyes of a light blue, and beaming with sweetness; the nose a little flat, and turned up at the point; the mouth rather large, with rosy lips, and very fine teeth.

Such was the portraiture as sketched by those who had the nearest opportunities of seeing her features, while those who frequently witnessed her behaviour were enraptured with the unaffected modesty of her mien, the uniform courteousness mixed with dignity of her deportment, her graceful and expressive manner of speaking, and the

benignity of her look when receiving any complimentary address, or holding communication with her attendants.

With qualities so perfectly agreeable and insinuating, shining in the bloom of youth, it was not to be wondered that the most extravagant reports of her exterior charms should be spread through the nation; and it is a curious fact that one printseller had the art to pass off the portrait of a once celebrated beauty as a faithful likeness of her majesty.

In the formation of the new royal household, every care was taken to give general satisfaction to the great families, and at the same time to place around the Queen those only who were worthy of her confidence.

The establishment was splendid; and it deserves observation that some who then entered upon it continued in the same capacity till very nearly the period of its termination. The descendants of others have also in succession occupied the same places; and it is a circumstance deserving of notice, that in all the public changes and agitations of a long reign, the household of the Queen never suffered any revolution on account of party connexions and political opinions. This firm attachment of Her Majesty to old servants, and their families, ensured tranquillity to the palace, when the madness of faction raged throughout the kingdom.

After their marriage, the royal pair resided almost

entirely at St. James's, making only short excursions to Kew and Richmond, with occasional visits to the Princess Dowager of Wales, at Leicester House.

The approaching coronation engrossed much of their attention, as it did that of the people at large; and perhaps on no similar occasion did public curiosity rise to so high a pitch. The arrival of the Queen, indeed, added much to the ardour of expectation, so that between the one ceremony and the other, nothing was heard but the bustle of preparation. The hall and abbey of Westminster were filled with new galleries of a peculiar construction, and in the former building they appeared suspended from the very roof, in a manner more calculated to excite alarm than to afford pleasure. From the end of the hall where the procession was to commence, a platform was erected, and continued through New Palace Yard, Parliament Street, and Bridge Street, into King Street, and so through the west door of the abbey, up to the choir.

The fronts of the houses on each side of this platform, and in every direction where a view could be commanded, were lined with scaffoldings, the seats on which were let at the most exorbitant rates. In the abbey, the price of a front seat for a single person was ten guineas; and in the most convenient houses along the line of the procession the charge was no less extravagant. In ordinary houses, the

prices varied from five guineas to one guinea, according to the situation; and even on the external booths or scaffoldings, which were called coronation theatres, and held from twelve to fifteen hundred persons, the fees for admission were enormous. So great, indeed, was the rage to see this grand national spectacle, that a gentleman actually paid one hundred and forty guineas for two rooms on a floor, to accommodate his lady, who was attended by her accoucheur and nurse, it being expected, from her advanced state of pregnancy, that she would be delivered before or during the procession.

Every care was taken to prevent accidents; and as it was naturally apprehended that the joy of the people would be expressed by bonfires and illuminations, an order was issued, that no fireworks should be displayed in any part of Westminster, from Whitehall to Millbank, and from thence to Buckingham Gate, round the south-west part of the Artillery Ground, till seven days after the coronation. By another order, all fires were forbidden to be lighted on the day of the ceremony, in or about the scaffoldings, on any pretence whatever; and in case there should be a necessity for the people employed to go under the same with lights, it was directed that they should make use of lanterns. By these precautionary measures, all apprehensions of fire, which might have affected many timid persons, were removed.

To prevent accidents by the stoppage of carriages, on the day of the coronation, notice was given, that a way was made for them to pass through Parliament Street, across the New and Old Palace Yards; and they were enjoined, as soon as discharged, to proceed on directly to Millbank, and from thence to Hyde Park Corner, without making any stop or deviation. It was also further ordered, that none but the coaches of peers, and others who attended the solemnity, should pass that way after seven o'clock in the morning, nor any whatever after nine: and in the evening, the coaches were to return the same way; but none were permitted to pass back, by any of those ways, till after the return of their majesties to St. James's Palace.

Information having been given to the lords of the privy council, that the hackney coachmen and chairmen had entered into a combination not to ply on that day, without exorbitant fares, an order was published, requiring all of them to be out with their coaches and chairs by four in the morning, and faithfully to perform their duty without any additional demands, on pain of being proceeded against with the utmost severity. But even this would have been of little avail, for they refused at last to work at all on that day; and would probably have persisted in the resolution, had it not been for the prudence of an eminent sedan-chair manufacturer, who circulated a handbill, assuring the chair-

men that the nobility and gentry would consider them properly, if the fares were left entirely to their discretion. In consequence of this remonstrance, the chairmen gave due attendance, and were handsomely remunerated, each set down, of a moderate length, being generally discharged with a guinea. The officers of the Board of Works made a regular survey of the temporary buildings that were erected, to see that all were secure, and capable of sustaining the numerous spectators by whom the same would be occupied.

To preserve order in the streets, the soldiers on duty were ranged in such a manner, that no obstruction could take place, and all their officers were required to be in attendance for the same purpose. Many of these accommodated their friends with the military dress, that they might have the better opportunity of seeing the procession; and even the cloaths of common soldiers were made use of for the attainment of the same object.

As it was reasonable to fear, that after all the precautions which human wisdom could adopt, casualties would happen, preparations were made, by clearing many of the wards of the nearest hospitals, to receive such unfortunate persons as might receive injury. Parties of the light horse were also ordered to patrol the streets, that they might be at hand to assist the civil magistrates in case of any tumults, riots, or other disorders.

Such were the salutary regulations adopted by those to whom the management of this august ceremony was entrusted, and the measures they pursued were attended with the happiest effects, as no accident of any kind did occur, or at least became known, either during the preparations, or on the *day of the coronation*.

That auspicious morning at length arrived; and fortunately, though the weather on the preceding days had been unfavourable, the sun now broke forth with a splendour that gave life to the busy scene, and added cheerfulness to the immense multitudes assembled in London and Westminster.

Thousands sat up in the open air all night; and by the dawn of the twenty-second of September, all the scaffoldings were full of spectators. One who was present wrote thus, while the particulars were fresh in his memory.

“First, conceive to yourself the fronts of the houses in all the streets, that could command the least point of view, lined with scaffolding, like so many galleries or boxes, raised one above another, to the very roofs. These were covered with carpets and cloths of different colours, which presented a pleasing variety to the eye: and if you consider the brilliant appearance of the spectators who were seated in them, many of whom were most splendidly dressed, you will easily imagine that this was no indifferent part of the show. The mob underneath

formed also a pretty contrast to the rest of the company. The platform, on account of the uncertainty of the weather, had a shelving roof, which was covered with a kind of sail cloth; but orders being given to roll up this covering, an honest sailor climbed up to the top, and stripped it off; which gave us not only a more extensive view, but let the light in upon every part of the procession. A rank of foot soldiers was placed on each side within the platform; and on the outside were stationed, at proper distances, several parties of horse guards, who somewhat incommoded the people that pressed incessantly upon them, by their prancing and capering; though luckily I did not hear of any serious mischief being done. I must confess it gave me pain to see the soldiers, both horse and foot, most unmercifully belabouring the heads of the mob with their broadswords, bayonets, and muskets; but it was not unpleasant to observe several tipping the horse soldiers with money from time to time, to let them pass between the horses, to get nearer the platform; after which, these unconscionable gentry drove them back again. As soon as it was day-break, we were diverted with seeing the coaches and chairs of the nobility and gentry, passing along with much difficulty; and several persons very richly-drest were obliged to quit their carriages, and be escorted by the soldiers through the mob to their respective places.

“Their majesties, to the shame of those be it spoken who were not so punctual, came in their chairs from St. James’s, through the park, to Westminster Hall, a little before nine o’clock. The King went into the Prince’s chamber, and the Queen into that belonging to the gentleman usher of the black rod. The nobility and others, who were to walk in the procession, were mustered and ranged by the officers of arms, in the Court of Requests, Painted Chamber, and House of Lords, from whence they proceeded into the hall. But notwithstanding the pains taken to have every thing in order, and the time they had to arrange the whole, without confusion or omission, the persons in whose department the business lay committed some curious blunders. Among other articles, they actually forgot the sword of state, the chairs for the King and Queen, and even the canopies, so that as a substitute for the first, they were obliged to borrow the Lord Mayor’s sword, and to keep their majesties waiting till matters were put to rights in the hall.”

“The processional being at length adjusted, the King and Queen took their respective seats at the upper end of the hall, having before them two tables, for the reception of the regalia; and attended by the lord great chamberlain, the lord high constable, the Earl Marshal, and the officers of state, who first presented to His Majesty four swords and the goldspurs; immediately after which, the hall gate

was thrown open, when the Bishop of Rochester, as Dean of Westminster, and the prebendaries, brought up the Bible, the crown of St. Edward, on a cushion of gold cloth, the orb with the cross, the sceptre with a dove on the top, another sceptre surmounted with a cross, and the staff of St. Edward. The Queen's regalia were brought up at the same time, consisting of the crown upon a cushion, a sceptre with a cross, and an ivory rod with a dove at the top. These being severally laid before their majesties, were afterwards delivered to the persons appointed to bear them in the procession, which set out a little before twelve o'clock, and arrived at the abbey about half past one.

The platform leading to the west door of the abbey was covered with blue baize, for the train to walk on; but there was a defect in not covering the upright posts, which, for the want of it, looked exceedingly mean and naked. But little deficiencies were lost in the magnificence of the scene, the moment the procession emerged, as it were, from the hall; nor was it in the power of words to describe either the varying beauties of the spectacle, or the joy of the assembled multitudes, when their majesties passed, on whose countenances a dignity suited to their station, tempered with the most amiable complacency, was sensibly impressed. It was observable that as they turned the

corner which commanded a view of Westminster bridge, they stopped short to look at the people, the appearance of whom, uncovered, and thick planted on the ground, which rose gradually, might have been compared to a pavement of heads and faces.

Here their majesties were suddenly saluted by a body of sailors, all dressed in blue jackets and white trowsers, who had obtained leave early in the morning to stand in a row close to the platform, on the condition of remaining perfectly quiet during the procession. They complied very faithfully with the terms imposed till the arrival of the King, at the sight of whom their honest feelings broke through all restraint, and they gave three hearty cheers, which were evidently received with great satisfaction, as the homage of truly loyal hearts.

On their majesties entering the abbey, the organ poured forth a swelling peal, and the choir chaunted an appropriate anthem, taken from the hundred and twenty-second psalm, as they passed up to their seats, on the east side of the throne, which was a square platform, with three steps close to the altar. The anthem being ended, the King stood up, and the archbishop made the following recognition four times:

“SIRS,

“Here I present unto you King George the Third, the rightful inheritor of the crown of this realm; wherefore all of you that be come this day to do your homage and service, and bounden duty, be ye willing to do the same?”

This demand was answered each time by loud acclamations of “God save King George the Third;” after which another anthem was sung, taken from the twenty-first psalm. His Majesty then pulled off his cap of state, and kneeling at the altar, offered a pall or altar-cloth of gold, and an ingot of gold of one pound weight. When the King had returned to his seat, Her Majesty arose, and being conducted to the altar, knelt down in like manner, and made her oblation of a pall of gold. The lords who carried the regalia next approached the altar, on which, with due reverence, the several articles were placed in order, and the persons who presented them retired backwards to their seats. While this part of the ceremony was performing, the Bishops of Chester and Chichester read the Litany, which being ended, the archbishop read part of the communion service; and then the Honorable Dr. Drummond, Bishop of Salisbury, preached a sermon from these words: “Because the Lord loved Israel for ever; therefore made he thee King, to do judgment and justice.” (1 Kings, x. 9.)

During the sermon, his majesty wore his cap of state, of crimson velvet, turned up with ermine; but when it ended, he went up to the altar uncovered, and there took the coronation oath, which was administered by the archbishop, and subscribed the declaration against popery. He then returned to his seat till the hymn of VENI CREATOR was finished, and then he removed to St. Edward's chair, which was placed in the middle of the *sacrarium* before the altar. The King being seated, the coronation anthem was sung, after which four knights of the garter, viz. the Duke of Devonshire, the Earls of Northumberland, Hereford, and Waldegrave, held a pall over him during the anointing, which was performed by the archbishop in the following manner. The ribbands of the King's dress being untied, the ampul with the oil was brought by the Dean of Westminster, who having poured the oil into the spoon, the archbishop anointed the King in the form of a cross, on the palms of the hands, the breast, the shoulders, the bend of the arms, and the crown of the head. A prayer was then said, after which the King took his seat; and the places that had been anointed were dried with cotton wool; and, in the mean time, a short anthem was sung by the choir. The spurs were then presented, and His Majesty girt with the sword, after it had been offered on the altar, and redeemed by the lord chamberlain. The

King was then invested with the armilla or stole of cloth of gold put about the neck, and fastened above and beneath the elbows with silk ribbands: then the mantle or open pall was placed over the shoulders, with the imperial or purple robe, and the orb given into his hand. This last, however, on His Majesty's receiving the ring, which was placed on the fourth finger of the right hand by the archbishop, was returned to the altar.

The Marquis of Rockingham, as deputy to the Duke of Norfolk, Lord of the Manor of Worksop, now presented a right hand glove to the King, who having put it on, received from the archbishop the sceptre surmounted with the cross, and afterward that with the dove, which he held in his left hand, his right being occasionally supported by the marquis. When the ceremony of investiture was completed, the archbishop took the crown of St. Edward from the altar, and at about half past three o'clock placed it, with the assistance of his brother prelates, reverently on his majesty's head.

Hitherto the profoundest silence had prevailed; but at this interesting moment, the park and tower guns were fired, by a signal thrown out from the top of the abbey; the trumpets sounded within that venerable pile, and the assembled multitude, as with one voice, shouted "God save the King."

'The peers, who till now held their coronets in their hands, put them on, as the bishops and judges did their caps, the representatives of the Dukes of Normandy and Aquitaine their hats, and the kings of arms their crowns. But the most splendid part of this scene arose from the appearance of the Knights of the Bath, whose caps were adorned with large plumes of white feathers, which produced a fine chivalrous appearance.

'On the restoration of silence, the archbishop proceeded with the divine service; and after presenting the bible, and pronouncing the benediction, he, together with his brethren, knelt down before the King, who kissed each of them on the cheek. While the choir sung the *Te Deum*, the King was enthroned, and being seated, the archbishops and bishops performed their homage; and then the temporal lords did the same, according to their respective ranks, every peer taking off his coronet, touching the King's crown, and kissing his left cheek.

During the ceremony of homage, medals were thrown about by the treasurer of the household. Those of the Queen had on one side a half length of Her Majesty, and in the exergue this inscription, CHARLOTTE, D. G. M. FR. ET HIBER. REGINA. On the other side Her Majesty at full length, with a seraph placing a crown on her head; and these

words in the exergue, *QUÆSITUM MERITIS*, "By merit obtained."

The coronation of the King being finished, the Queen removed from her seat on the south side of the area to a chair placed before the altar, where she was anointed with the holy oil, four ladies holding the pall over Her Majesty during the ceremony, after which the archbishop invested her with the ring, and then placed the crown upon her head; at which moment the Princess Augusta, and all the peeresses, put on their coronets. Her Majesty then having received the sceptre with the cross in her right hand, and the ivory rod with the dove in her left, was conducted to her throne.

After this, the King and Queen made another oblation at the altar, preparatory to the holy communion, the awfulness of which was heightened to a most impressive degree by the conduct of the King, who whispered the archbishop, and asked whether it was not customary to lay aside the crown on such an occasion. His grace, surprised at the question, which he could not solve, turned to Bishop Pearce, who knew no more than himself: when His Majesty, concluding that humility best became such an act of devotion, took off his crown, and laid it down during the administration of the sacrament.

At this solemn moment, every eye in that crowded assembly gave manifest indications of the

effect produced by the religious deportment of the two august personages, who were kneeling to receive the sacred symbols; and both of whom, though in the very spring of life, evinced that they were raised above all the pomp and vanity of earthly grandeur. Their behaviour indeed throughout the whole of the long and complicated forms excited universal admiration; and Bishop Newton, who was a near observer, says of the King, that "no actor in the character of Pyrrhus, in the Distressed Mother, not even Booth himself, who was celebrated for it in the Spectator, ever ascended the throne with so much grace and dignity."

The coronation office being performed, their majesties retired into St. Edward's chapel, where they took off their crowns, and delivered them, with the sceptres, to the archbishop, who laid them before the altar. The King then withdrew into the traverse prepared for him upon the western wall of that chapel; the Queen the mean time remaining in her chair of state: but when the King came forth, after changing his coronation dress for a robe of purple velvet, she arose, and both stood before the altar, where the archbishop set the crowns, provided for them to wear during the rest of the solemnity, upon their heads, giving the sceptre with the cross into the King's right hand, and the orb with the cross into his left; as also the sceptre with the cross into the Queen's right hand,

and the ivory rod into her left. The archbishops and bishops then divested themselves of their copes, and proceeded in their usual habits.

The four swords being borne before the King, and the heralds again putting the procession in order, they went out of the church at the west door, the whole returning in the same order as they came, with the exception of the regalia, and the chapter of Westminster.

But all pleasure has an alloy, and the most splendid scenes have their defects, of which the present was an instance, for owing to the delay at the outset, the extraordinary length of the service, and the tedious pauses that intervened between the several parts, it was dark when the procession left the abbey, so that the people who had been waiting its return with great patience for more than six hours, could perceive nothing but a moving line of figures, that looked like the solemn train of a funeral. In the hall, matters were still worse; for though above three thousand wax candles were placed in beautiful chandeliers of cut glass, none of them were suffered to be lighted till the entrance of the King; the consequence of which was, that the assembled crowds in the galleries were unable to distinguish any part of the procession as it came in, except the mere forms of the persons as they descended into the hall, and who were then lost in the general gloom. At length this partial eclipse was sud-

denly dispelled, for the instant His Majesty reached the door, the whole building appeared illuminated, as it were, by enchantment; and they who one moment were murmuring in darkness, broke out the next into raptures at the dazzling glory that burst upon them.

The great diamond in the King's crown fell out while returning to the hall, but it was immediately found and restored. In former times, this would have been accounted ominous.

Their majesties, on their arrival, retired to the court of wards till dinner was announced, when they took their seats in chairs of state, on an elevated platform, at the upper end of the hall, where the courts of chancery and King's Bench stand, but which were then removed.

The Dukes of York and Cumberland sat at one end of the table on the King's right hand, and the Princess Augusta at the other end on the Queen's left hand.

In bringing up the first course, Earl Talbot, as lord steward of the household, rode up from the hall gate to the steps which led to the platform. His lordship, however, gained but little credit by the part which he performed on this occasion; for, according to Lord Orford, in one of his very entertaining letters to Mr. Montague, "The earl piqued himself on backing his horse down the hall, and not turning its rump towards the King; but he had

taken such pains to dress it to that duty, that it entered backwards; and at his retreat, the spectators clapped—a terrible indecorum, but suitable to such Bartholomew Fair doings. He had twenty demelès, but came out of none creditably. He had taken away the table of the Knights of the Bath, and was forced to admit two in their old place, and dine the others in the Court of Requests. Sir William Stanhope said, “We are ill-treated, for *some of us* are gentlemen.” Beckford told the earl it was hard to refuse a table to the city of London, whom it would cost ten thousand pounds to banquet the King, and that his lordship would repent it, if they had not a table in the hall; upon which they had one. To the barons of the Cinque Ports, who made the same complaint, he said, “If you come to me as lord steward, I tell you it is impossible; if as Lord Talbot, I am a match for any of you.”

Before the second course, the champion was brought up, between the high constable and earl marshal, followed by four pages, and preceded by a herald, who pronounced the challenge: the champion's two esquires, with his lance and target; two serjeants at arms, the trumpets, and the knight marshal, going before to clear the way. This was one of the most pleasing incidents in the ceremony, and it passed off exceedingly well; the champion acting his part admirably, and dashing down his gauntlet with proud defiance. The horse, which

he rode was that on which the late king was mounted at the battle of Dettingen; and its head, as well as that of the rider, was adorned with a large plume of red, white, and blue feathers. After the gauntlet had lain some time on the ground, it was taken up by the herald, and re-delivered to the champion, who then made a low obeisance to His Majesty; upon which the cupbearer brought forth a gilt bowl of wine, with a cover, and having presented it to the King, His Majesty drank to the champion, and sent him the bowl by the cupbearer, accompanied with his assistants. By this time, the champion, having received his gauntlet, put it on, and taking the cup with both hands, retired back a little, drank with humble reverence to the King, and then departed, attended as before, taking the bowl and cover with him as his fee.

Immediately after the return of the champion, garter king of arms, attended by all the heralds, proclaimed His Majesty's style in Latin, French, and English, three several times; first upon the top of the steps, near the table; next in the middle of the hall; and lastly at the bottom of the hall.

The second course was then brought up, with the same order and ceremony as the first; and then the several services, which had been allowed by the court of claims appointed for that purpose, were performed.

For the accommodation of the company, double

rows of tables extended down the whole length of the hall, the ladies being placed next to the walls. The sight was most splendid from the galleries, whence many persons of quality, like prisoners, exclaiming, "Pray, remember the poor," let down handkerchiefs tied together, and strings with baskets suspended to them, earnestly requesting some of the good things below, to satisfy their craving appetites after so long an abstinence. The entertainment continued till about ten o'clock, when their majesties retired; but they were pleased to let the peeresses go first, that they might not be incommoded by the pressure of the crowd. When the company broke up, the populace were admitted into the hall, which was presently cleared of all the moveables that could be carried away.

Thus ended this proud day, throughout which both the King and Queen conducted themselves with equal dignity and affability; evidently enjoying the magnificence of the scene in all its parts, and most sensibly affected by the spirit of loyalty that animated, as with one soul, the countless multitudes who were drawn together on the joyful occasion.

The Princess Dowager of Wales, with the younger branches of her family, did not walk in the great procession, but went from the House of Lords across Old Palace Yard, on a platform erected for

conies, guards, and processions, made Palace-Yard the liveliest spectacle in the world: the Hall was the most glorious. The blaze of lights, the richness and variety of habits, the ceremonial, the benches of peers and peeresses, frequent and full, was as awful as a pageant can be; and yet for the King's sake and my own I never wish to see another; nor am impatient to have my Lord Effingham's promise fulfilled. The King complained that so few precedents were kept for their proceedings. Lord Effingham owned the Earl Marshal's office had been strangely neglected; but he had taken such care for the future, that *next coronation* would be regulated in the most exact manner imaginable."

To the Countess of Aylesbury he writes still more pleasantly: "My heraldry was much more offended at the coronation with the ladies that did walk, than with those that walked out of their place; yet I was not so *perilously* angry as my Lady Cowper, who refused to set a foot with my Lady M—; and when she was at last obliged to associate with her, set out on a round trot, as if she designed to prove the antiquity of her family, by marching as lustily as a maid of honour of Queen Gwinevir. It was in truth a brave sight. The sea of heads in Palace-Yard, the guards, horse and foot, the scaffolds, balconies, and procession, exceeded imagination. The hall when once illuminated was noble; but they suffered the whole parade to return

into it in the dark, that His Majesty might be surprised with the quickness with which the sconces caught fire. The champion acted well; the other paladins had neither the grace nor alertness of Rinaldo. Lord Effingham and the Duke of Bedford were but untoward knights-errant; and Lord Talbot had not much more dignity than the figure of General Monk in the abbey. The habit of the peers is unbecoming to the last degree: but the peeresses made amends for all defects. Your daughter Richmond, Lady Kildare, and Lady Pembroke, were as handsome as the graces. Lady Rochford, Lady Holderness, and Lady Lyttleton, looked exceedingly well in that their day; and for those of the days before, the Duchess of Queensberry, Lady Westmorland, and Lady Albemarle, were surprising. Lady Harrington was noble at a distance, and so covered with diamonds, that you would have thought she had bid somebody or other, like Falstaff, 'rob me the exchequer.' Lady Northampton was very magnificent too, and looked prettier than I have seen her of late. Lady Spencer and Lady Bolingbroke were not the worst figures there. The Duchess of Ancaster marched alone, after the Queen, with much majesty; and there were two new Scotch peeresses that pleased every body, Lady Sutherland, and Lady Dunmore. Per contra, were Lady P. who had put a wig on; and old E. who had scratched her's off; Lady S.

the dowager E. and a Lady S. with her tresses coal black, and her hair coal white. Well, it was all delightful, but not half so charming as its being over. The gabble one heard about it for six weeks before, and the fatigue of the day, could not well be compensated by a mere puppet show; for puppet show it was, though it cost a million."

Both the King and Queen felt extremely anxious for the safety of their subjects throughout the whole of this important day; and when it was over, they expressed great satisfaction at finding that not a single accident had occurred, to throw a damp over the remembrance of it.

All over the kingdom there were rejoicings to a degree unprecedented perhaps in the English annals; but the most laudable celebration of this great national festival took place at Gloucester, where, after a sermon preached in the cathedral, by Dr. Tucker, the patriotic dean, a collection was made for the portioning out seven young maidens of good character in marriage.

Three days after the coronation, their majesties visited Covent Garden Theatre, to see the 'Beggars' Opera, with the performance of which the Queen appeared highly delighted. On this occasion, two magnificent boxes were prepared, one for their majesties, of a cherry coloured velvet, the festoon enriched with silver embroidery, lace, and fringe: in the centre were represented two hymeneal torches,

enclosing a heart, the device *MUTUUS ARDOR*; the columns were wreathed with lace, and the canopy adorned with tassels, and a crown of excellent workmanship: the whole lined with white satin. The other box, for the princess, was of blue velvet, decorated with gold, and the canopy distinguished with the ensigns of the principality of Wales. The expense of the whole amounted, it was said, to seven hundred pounds. The metropolis was extremely lively at this time, and Horace Walpole, who appears to have taken great interest in the royal amusements, says, "the Queen is so gay that we shall not want sights; she has been at the Opera, the Beggars' Opera, and the Rehearsal, and two nights ago carried the King to Ranelagh." In the last particular, however, he was mistaken; but the Queen was so well pleased with the opera, that she signified her intention of going thither once a-week, and to each of the other theatres almost as regularly during the season, which, of course, produced crowded houses.

Her Majesty was exceedingly partial to the burlettas; but as these were exhibited on Tuesdays, when it was inconvenient for the King to attend, on account of the foreign post, the day of performance was altered to Monday.

The last splendid scene of this year of pageants was the civic feast, to which, according to ancient custom, the new monarch, his queen, and all the

royal family, were invited. Next to the coronation, no spectacle could be more splendid; and fortunately, though the morning was extremely foggy, the weather cleared up about noon: the sun shone out bright, and the remainder of the day proved uncommonly fine. Every house, from Temple Bar to Guildhall, was crowded from top to bottom, and many had scaffoldings, with seats erected outside, for the accommodation of spectators. Most of the fronts were also hung with carpets, or hangings of rich tapestry, which, with the brilliant dresses of the ladies in the windows and balconies, had a very shewy effect.

The royal procession left the palace about twelve o'clock, but did not reach the east end of St. Paul's Church-Yard till near two, when their majesties stopped to hear a speech delivered by the senior grammar scholar of Christ's Hospital, who performed his part with great propriety, and then presented two copies of the address to the King and Queen, who received the same very graciously. From hence they proceeded to the house of Mr. David Barclay, a silk mercer and quaker, opposite to Bow Church, where they waited above four hours, to see the civic procession, which, however, did not enter Cheapside till dark; a circumstance that produced some humorous observations, at the expense of the lord mayor, who, it was said, did

this in imitation of the King's return from the abbey to Westminster Hall.

During the stay of the royal party at Mr. Barclay's, the people both within and without were amply rewarded for their patience, in waiting the arrival of the lord mayor, by the condescending deportment of their sovereign and his amiable consort, who made their appearance frequently at the windows and in the balcony to gratify the public curiosity. But of this visit, the story has been related with such circumstantial simplicity, in a letter written by a married daughter of Mr. Barclay, to a female acquaintance at Warwick, that it would be unjust to attempt an abridgment, and therefore it is here inserted as the same appeared in the Gentleman's Magazine, for December, 1808.

"I fully intended before I received your last packet to make choice of the first opportunity to give you a sketch of the honour we received: and to inform you that the splendour, with every other circumstance relating to the important day, far exceeded the utmost stretch of our imagination, and has left so pleasing an impression, that I am tempted to wish old Time would forget to erase it. To pretend to give a relation of the hurry and fatigue before the arrival of our royal guests, would be the height of folly, since my pen cannot paint one-half; I shall, therefore, proceed to acquaint you, that

about one o'clock papa and mamma, with sister Weston to attend them, took their stands at the street door, where my two brothers had long been, to receive the nobility, above one hundred of whom were then waiting in the warehouse, from which place every appearance of merchandize was removed, and properly decorated for the purpose.

“As the royal family came, they were conducted into one of the counting-houses, which was transformed into a very pretty parlour for that purpose. The newspapers have doubtless informed you of the procession; so I shall only say, that at half past two o'clock their majesties arrived, which was two hours later than they intended; but had you seen the crowd, you would have wondered how they ever got through it. A platform was raised in the street, on which, before their majesties alighted, my brothers spread a carpet; and as soon as they entered, the procession began. The Queen came up first, handed by her chamberlain; the King followed, with the rest of the royal family, agreeable to their rank; the master and mistress of the house, and then the quality. On the second pair of stairs was placed our own company, about forty in number, the chief of whom were of the Puritan order, and all in their orthodox habits. Next the drawing-room door was placed our own selves, I mean my papa's children, for, to the great

mortification of our visitors, none else were allowed to enter the drawing-room; for as kissing the King's hand without kneeling was an honour never before conferred, His Majesty chose to confine that mark of condescension to our own family, as a return for the trouble we had been at upon the occasion.

“But to proceed. After the royal pair had shewn themselves to the populace for a few moments from the balcony, we were all introduced; and you may believe at that juncture we felt no small palpitations.

“His Majesty met us at the door, which was a condescension we did not expect; at which place he saluted us with great politeness; and advancing to the upper end of the room, we performed the ceremony of kissing the Queen's hand, at the sight of whom we were all in raptures, not only from the brilliancy of her appearance, which was pleasing beyond description; but being throughout her whole person possessed of that inexpressible something that is beyond a set of features, and equally claims *our attention*. *To be sure, she has not a fine face, but a most agreeable countenance, and is vastly genteel, with an air, notwithstanding her being a little woman, truly majestic; and I really think by her manner, is expressed that complacency of disposition which is perfectly amiable; and though I could never perceive that she deviated from that*

dignity which belongs to a crowned head, yet on the most trifling occasions she displayed all that easy behaviour that elegant negligence can bestow.

“ I suppose that you will not think the picture complete, unless the important article of dress be in part communicated : therefore, agreeable to the rules of painting, I shall begin with the head. Her hair, which is of a light colour, hung in what is called coronation ringlets, encompassed with a circle of diamonds, so beautiful in themselves, and so prettily disposed, as will admit of no description : her clothes, which were as rich as gold, silver, and silk, could make them, was a suit from which fell a train, supported by a little page in scarlet and silver. The lustre of her stomacher was inconceivable, being one of the presents she received whilst Princess of Mecklenburg, on which was represented, by the vast profusion of diamonds placed on it, the magnificence attending so great a king, who, I must tell you, I think a very personable man : and the singular marks of honour by him bestowed on us, declare his heart disposed to administer all that pleasure and satisfaction that royalty can give : and nothing could have added to the scene, but that of conversing with the Queen, who inquired if we could talk French for that purpose ; and so flattered our vanity, as to tell the lady in waiting, that the greatest mortification she had met with since her arrival in England, was her not being able to con-

verse with us. I doubt not but that the novelty of our appearance raised her curiosity; for amidst such a profusion of glitter, we must look like a parcel of nuns. The same ceremony was performed of kissing the hand with the Princess Dowager, Amelia, Augusta, and the Duke of Cumberland, York, and the other princes, who followed the King's example, in complimenting each of us with a kiss, but not till their majesties had left the room; for, you must know, there were proper apartments fitted up to give the rest of the royal family an opportunity of paying and receiving compliments: and then we were at liberty to go in and out as we pleased: but we could not bear the thoughts of absenting ourselves, while we had one leg to stand on: and the feast prepared for our eyes supplied every other want, or at least rendered us insensible of any.

“As both the doors of the drawing-room were open the whole time, the people without had a very good opportunity of seeing: besides which, the Queen was up stairs three times; and one of these opportunities was made use of for introducing my little darling, with Patty Barclay and Priscilla Bell, who were the only children admitted. At this sight I was so happy as to be present. You may be sure I was not a little anxious on account of my girl, who very unexpectedly remembered all instructions, but kissed the Queen's hand with such a grace, that I thought the Princess Dowager would have smo-

thered her with kisses; and on her return to the drawing-room, such a report was made of her to His Majesty, that Miss was sent for again, when she was so lucky as to afford the King great amusement, in particular by telling him she loved the King, though she must not love fine things; and that her grandpapa would not allow her to make a courtesy. The simplicity of her dress and manner seemed to give great pleasure; and she was dismissed with as great applause as my most boundless wishes could desire. Her sweet face made such an impression on the Duke of York, that I rejoiced she was only five instead of fifteen. When he first met her, which was by accident, he made use of all his eloquence to persuade Miss to give him leave to introduce her to the Queen; but she would by no means consent to go with him, till I informed her that it was no less than a Prince that was making court to her; which she no sooner heard, than her little female heart relented, and she gave him her hand—a true copy of the sex.

“The King, you may observe, never sat down, nor did he taste any thing during the whole time. Her Majesty drank tea, which was brought her on a silver waiter by brother John, who delivered it to the lady in waiting, and she presented it kneeling, which to us, who had never seen that ceremony before, appeared as pretty as any of the parade. The rest of the royal family and nobility repaired to the

place prepared for refreshments. Our kitchen upon this occasion was turned into a tea room, and coffee and chocolate were prepared for above a hundred people, and four females to attend; besides, there was a cold collation of hams, fowls, tongues, hung beef, &c. all served in small plates, for this repast was only designed for a bit by way of staying the stomach. The dressers, after being covered with a fine cloth, were spread with white biscuits, rusks, &c. The floor, like the rest of the apartments, was covered with a carpet. In the decoration of this room, I had like to have lain myself up in the morning. In the little parlour was a dessert of fruits and sweetmeats, and three men servants to wait in the character of valets, for no servants in livery were suffered to appear. Above stairs was the like provision made for our own company, and proper attendants in waiting, for no person that day was to stir from the post they were placed at, to prevent confusion. Through fatigue, mamma was very soon obliged to retire; then sister Weston was declared mistress of the ceremony, and sister Patty her attendant; as for us, we were so happy as to have nothing to do but to converse with the ladies, some of whom were very sociable.

“As they staid till seven, the drawing-room and balcony were illuminated, which added prodigiously to the beauty of the scene. But what charmed us most of all, was their majesties being left with us

by themselves, having sent all away before them, except the two ladies in waiting on the Queen ; and, indeed, this has been deemed by the public the greatest mark of respect they could bestow, to trust themselves without so much as a guard in the house, or any of the nobles. The leave they took of us was such as we might expect from our equals ; full of apologies for the trouble they had given us, and returning thanks for the entertainment ; which they were so careful to have fully explained, that the Queen came up to us as we were all standing on one side the door, and had every word interpreted, and left us in astonishment at her condescension, my brothers attending them to the coach in the same manner they had received them, only with the additional honour of assisting the Queen to get in. Some of us sat up to see them return from the hall, otherwise we should have seen nothing of the grandeur of the procession, as we could not have a view of it as they came, and it was worth our pains. Their majesties thinking it a compliment from us, took great care to return it, by the notice they took of us as they passed. In short, they omitted nothing that could demonstrate respect ; an instance of which the King gave, by ordering twenty-four of the life guards, who were drawn up, during His Majesty's stay, in Bow Church-Yard, to be placed opposite our house all night, lest any of the canopy

should be pulled down by the mob, in which there were one hundred yards of silk damask."

It was past six o'clock before the Lord Mayor entered the hall, when, dispositions were immediately made for the reception of the royal family, to conduct whom the sheriffs waited at Mr. Barclay's, and a temporary passage was made, leading to the gate, on each side of which stood a line of common councilmen in their gowns, and holding wax lights in their hands.

On the entrance of their majesties, the lord mayor, kneeling, presented the city sword, which being returned, he carried it before the King, the Queen following, with the lady mayoress behind her. Their majesties seemed highly delighted, and returned the various compliments paid to them with great condescension, expressing their admiration at the splendour and magnificence which every where surrounded them.

In the council chamber, the aldermen's ladies and daughters were presented, and had the honour to be saluted by the King, and to kiss the Queen's hand.

It was nine o'clock before the dinner was served to the royal family, who all sat at the same table, without any other company; for though the ladies in waiting upon the Queen had claimed a kind of right, by custom, to dine with Her Majesty, this

was overruled, and they sat at the table of the lady mayoress.

The dishes of the royal table were set on by the seven aldermen of the committee; the lord mayor standing behind the King as chief butler, and the lady mayoress waiting on the Queen in the same capacity, till they were graciously requested by their majesties to retire to their respective tables.

While the second course was serving, the common cryer, standing before the royal table, demanded silence, and then proclaimed aloud, that the King drank to the health and prosperity of the corporation and City of London; adding, that Her Majesty also drank, confirming the same; whereupon the band of music immediately played the march in Judas Maccabæus. The common cryer then came to the lord mayor's table, at the lower end of the hall, and proclaimed, that his lordship, the aldermen, and common council, drank health, long life, and a prosperous reign to our most gracious Sovereign, George the Third; upon which the music played the latter part of Handel's coronation anthem, "God save the King."

The music having ceased, the cryer demanded silence a third time, and proclaimed, that the lord mayor, aldermen, and common council, drank health and long life to our gracious Queen Charlotte; upon which the band played again. The healths of the

rest of the royal family were next drank in order, but not with the same formalities.

After dinner, the royal party withdrew into the council chamber, and while they drank tea, preparations were made in the hall for dancing, the tables being removed from the hustings, and the floor entirely covered with new carpeting. On the return of their majesties, they took their seats under a canopy of state, and the ball was opened with a minuet by the Duke of York and the lady mayoress; after which some others of the royal family danced till about one o'clock, when their majesties retired, the lord mayor with the sword, the sheriffs, and the committee, going before them to the hall gate. At parting, the King and Queen paid particular marks of honour to Sir Samuel Fludyer, the lord mayor, and the lady mayoress; and his majesty said, "that to be elegantly entertained he must come into the city." The Queen's easy, elegant, and condescending behaviour throughout the entertainment delighted the whole company, among whom the expression of every countenance indicated the wish of happiness and length of days to the royal pair.

The streets through which their majesties passed from Guildhall to St. James's were illuminated in the most brilliant manner, so that the return was no less splendid than the procession in the morning.

This grand fête, which cost the corporation near

seven thousand pounds, might be almost said to vie in magnificence with that of the coronation ; and one of the foreign ministers designated it very happily as an entertainment fit only for one king to give to another.

A fortnight afterwards, the lord mayor and committee went up to St. James's, by order of the common council, to return thanks for the honour done to the city, and to request that their majesties would sit for their pictures to be placed in the Guildhall.

The King received the committee in a very gracious manner, expressed his entire satisfaction at the late entertainment, and signified his royal intention to give orders that his picture, and that of Her Majesty, should be sent to the city.

The Queen also was pleased to receive the committee with great affability ; and such of them as had not before been introduced, were now admitted, to kiss her majesty's hand.

Three days before the city feast, the first parliament called by the authority of His Majesty opened ; when in his speech from the throne, the King was pleased to say—" My marriage with a princess, eminently distinguished by every virtue and amiable endowment, whilst it affords me all possible domestic comfort, cannot but highly contribute to the happiness of my kingdom, which has been, and always shall be, my first object in every action of my life."

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“ Most gracious Sovereign,

“ It has been the first care of your faithful Commons to take into their consideration what your Majesty most affectionately recommended to them from the throne, namely, the enabling your Majesty to make that provision for the Queen, in case she shall survive you, to which her royal dignity and her own merit give her the justest claim.

“ On such an occasion, I should ill discharge the trust which has lately been reposed in me by the Commons, and most graciously confirmed by your Majesty, if I omitted to assure you, that they feel the warmest sentiments of gratitude to your Majesty, who have made their happiness, and that of their posterity, your principal object. Of this your Majesty has given abundant proof, by your royal nuptials with a princess, whose illustrious ancestors were early assertors of the civil and religious liberties of mankind, and, in consequence, closely attached to your Majesty's family—a princess, whom the most distinguished virtues and amiable endowments pointed out to your Majesty's choice, and made the partner of the brightest crown in Europe.

“ I cannot but esteem it a very singular honour and happiness to myself, that the first bill, which, by command of the Commons, I present to your Majesty, is a bill in which they have, with the greatest zeal and unanimity, endeavoured to testify

their duty to your Majesty, and your royal consort; and that it is no less acceptable to your Majesty than to your Commons, and all whom they represent.

“But, Sir, though they have passed it with the utmost expedition which their forms allow, yet it is matter of real satisfaction to them, that they can entertain the most pleasing and well-founded hope, that it will be a long course of years before it can have any effect. And the domestic happiness of the Queen is so inseparably connected with the public interests of your people, that, on the behalf of Her Majesty, as well as of every subject of your realm, your faithful Commons will never cease to implore the Almighty, that he will be pleased to distinguish this nation by his divine favour and protection, in prolonging your Majesty’s happy reign beyond an ordinary date; and that if ever the provision of this bill shall become effectual, it may be lamented only by posterity.”

“The bill, Sir, which I have in my hand, is entitled;

“An act for enabling His Majesty to make provision for supporting the dignity of the Queen, in case she shall survive His Majesty;” to which your Commons, with all humility, beseech your Majesty’s royal assent.”

When the bill had received the royal assent, Her Majesty, who sat on the right hand of the throne,

in a chair of state, rose up, and made her obeisance to the King, agreeable to the custom in such cases.

The provision thus made for Her Majesty in the event of survivorship, was the same as that which had been settled upon the late Queen Caroline, being one hundred thousand pounds a-year, with Richmond Old Park, and Somerset House, annexed.

The concluding part of the speaker's address on this occasion might almost have been considered as prophetic, could the human imagination have transported itself forward beyond half a century, and contemplated the same monarch living, indeed, but secluded from public view, in a state of two-fold blindness, the world forgetting, and by the world forgot. But who at that moment could have supposed that the act then passed would never take effect; and that the personage whom it most interested would in her last moments be deprived of the sight of a countenance which for near sixty years had always been turned towards her with the fondest affection! Thus it is that history brings together at one view all that ministers pleasure to man, and all that tends to humble his vanity:

The two extremes of life,  
The highest happiness and deepest woe,  
With all the sharp and bitter aggravations  
Of such a vast transition.

A short time before this provisional settlement was enacted, the accustomed patent passed the privy

seal, appropriating forty thousand pounds a-year out of the civil list, for the support of Her Majesty's establishment.

At the close of this year, the King purchased of Sir Charles Herbert Sheffield, for the sum of twenty-one thousand pounds, Buckingham House, which His Majesty presented to the Queen, upon whom, fourteen years afterwards, it was settled by act of parliament, in exchange for her right to Somerset House, then about to be converted into public offices. On making this purchase, their majesties visited the other royal palaces, for the purpose of selecting such articles of furniture and pictures as suited their taste; and in the following spring the house was completed for their reception.

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## CHAPTER V.

*Appearance of the British Court.—Studies of the Queen.  
 Royal Amusements.—Public Discontent.—Arrival of  
 the Queen's Brothers.—Birth of the Prince of Wales.  
 Addresses.—Installation at Windsor.—Visit to Eton Col-  
 lege.—Preliminaries of Peace.—Poetical Congratulation.*

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A GENERAL idea prevailed among the nobility, and especially the ladies, that a perpetual round of pleasure would distinguish the new reign, especially as an air of sullen gloom had pervaded the English court for more than twenty years. The youth of their majesties tended to confirm this expectation; and the liveliness of their manner diffused a spirit of gaiety through the whole circle of rank and fashion by which they were surrounded. The levees and drawing-rooms were numerously attended; and all who came from them reported with delight the freedom which they enjoyed in the royal presence. This was the common observation even a few days after the accession, when something like formality and restraint might have been readily excused.

The late Lord Orford, who had seen much of courts, was struck with the change, which he thus described at the time to his friend Montague: "The King himself seems all good-nature, and wishing to satisfy every body: all his speeches are obliging. I saw him again yesterday, and was surprised to find the levee-room had lost so entirely the air of the lion's den. This sovereign don't stand in one spot, with his eyes fixed royally on the ground, and dropping bits of German news: he walks about, and speaks to every body. I saw him afterwards on the throne, where he is graceful and genteel, sits with dignity, and reads his answers to addresses well."

The same courteous and easy demeanour gave life to the royal circles after the coronation; nor was the Queen less cheerful and conversable than His Majesty, on public occasions, with those who understood French, which she spoke with great fluency and propriety. Though she studied English with close assiduity, under the instruction of the Reverend Mr. Majendie, father of the present Bishop of Bangor, she did not venture to hold any discourse in the language till it had become so familiar as to present no difficulty in the choice and arrangement of words. To facilitate her acquisition of the language, His Majesty spent many hours with her, in reading the best authors, and

stopping frequently to explain what he found she did not perfectly comprehend. In this agreeable manner was that time occupied which the gay and giddy would have spent in scenes of dissipation, or in devising new sources of idle enjoyment.

But though their majesties certainly disappointed those who, in the love of vanity, had eagerly anticipated an endless succession of festivities, they did not exclude all pleasure and amusement from the palace. Frequent entertainments were given at court, to select parties; and as the Queen was very fond of dancing, the evening generally ended with a ball, which began at half past six, and lasted till one, when the company broke up, and retired without any supper.

This apparent monotony, however, was not to the taste of the votaries of fashion, who in their spleen ascribed the retiring virtue, which they could neither admire nor imitate, to unworthy motives, as savouring of austerity; while some went still farther, and attributed the secluded state which their majesties observed to the undue influence of the Princess Dowager of Wales, and the ascendancy of the Earl of Bute. So-fickle is public opinion, that not many months after the arrival of the Queen, the very palace purchased for her accommodation was nicknamed Holyrood House; and murmurings were

heard against the poverty and pride of German connexions.

As Her Majesty's birth-day came within three weeks of that of the king, it was deemed advisable, for the benefit of trade, and public convenience, to celebrate the former at an earlier period: accordingly, notice was given that the same would be observed on the eighteenth of January following, and ever after on the same day. That day was accordingly kept with great state and splendour at court, the nobility and gentry vying with each other in richness of dress and grandeur of equipage. The following week Her Majesty was gratified by the arrival of her brother, Prince Charles, who was on his route to Portugal, as a volunteer in the service of that kingdom, then at war with the Spaniards. Shortly afterwards, Prince Ernest, and the celebrated Count de Lippe Buckeburg arrived, the latter in his way to Lisbon, accompanied by a great number of persons of distinction from Mecklenburg, whose appearance contributed much to enliven the British court, and to exhilarate the spirits of the Queen.

On the return of Prince Charles from Portugal, he had the satisfaction to find his illustrious relative sustaining the character of a mother, to the inconceivable joy of the whole nation: In the expectation of that important event, the metropolis had

been kept uncommonly full all the summer ; and hardly any family of consequence ventured even to a short distance out of town during the heat of the dog-days.

At length, about two o'clock in the morning of Tuesday, the twelfth of August, 1762, Her Majesty, who was then at St. James's, found herself unwell, and at three, notice of it being sent to her royal highness the Princess Dowager of Wales, she arrived within an hour afterwards ; and at five, orders were despatched for all the ladies of the bedchamber, the maids of honour, and the great officers of state, to attend : but the Archbishop of Canterbury alone was admitted into the chamber, the others remaining in a room adjoining, from whence a door was left open into the Queen's apartment. So strict, indeed, was the attention paid to delicacy on this occasion, consistent with a due regard to forms, that although Dr. William Hunter was in waiting, the necessary duties were performed by Mrs. Draper ; and exactly at twenty-four minutes past seven the heir to the British throne was brought into the world. Information of the happy event being immediately sent to His Majesty, he rewarded the messenger with five hundred pounds. The joyful intelligence was also sent off by expresses in all directions, and announced to the metropolis by the Tower guns, those in the park remaining necessarily silent.

It was considered as a remarkable coincident, that the day on which the prince was born, was, according to the old style, the same with that which placed *his family on the throne of these realms*: and a circumstance occurred just after the delivery of Her Majesty, which also tended to add joy to the occasion. This was, the entrance of a long train of waggons, laden with the treasure taken on board the *Hermione*, a Spanish register ship, recently captured by two English frigates. The procession passed under the windows of the palace, from whence the King and the nobility, who were assembled there, viewed the spectacle with pleasure, and cheerfully joined in the acclamations of the sailors and the multitude.

The same day a council was called, when it was ordered that the Archbishop of Canterbury should prepare a form of thanksgiving, and that the name of the Prince of Wales should be inserted in the usual prayers for the family. On the following Sunday these directions were observed in all the churches of the metropolis; and an anthem, composed for the occasion, was sung before His Majesty at the Chapel Royal, which was uncommonly crowded. The baptismal ceremony was performed in the great council chamber, on the evening of the eighth of September, by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The sponsors were the Duke of Cumberland, the Duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz,

(his representative being the Duke of Devonshire) and the Princess Dowager of Wales. This solemnity, which in former times was always celebrated with great pomp, was conducted in a much more private manner than could have been expected: nor was Her Majesty present on the occasion, though a royal bed, of great taste and magnificence, had been previously placed in the great drawing-room, which seemed to indicate that she intended to see company.

On the thirteenth of September, Her Majesty went to the Chapel Royal for the first time, when the usual service of thanksgiving after childbirth, was read; and an appropriate anthem, composed by Dr. Boyce, was sung by the choir.

For some days after Her Majesty's delivery, the court was very much crowded with visitors, inasmuch, that double guards were posted round the palace to keep order.

The ladies who went to see the young prince were admitted into the room, about forty at a time. The cradle in which the royal infant lay, was placed on a small elevation, under a canopy of state. The head and the sides, which came no higher than the bed, were covered with crimson velvet, and lined with white satin. From the head rose an ornament of carved work, gilt, with a coronet in the middle. The upper sheet was

covered, with a very broad, beautiful Brussels lace, turning over at the top, upon a magnificent quilt of crimson velvet, and gold lace; the whole breadth of the Brussels lace appearing also along the sides, and hanging down from underneath. Near the cradle sat the nurse, with a small velvet cushion lying on her knee, for the babe to rest on; and on each side stood a fair mute, employed on occasion required, to rock the infant to sleep.

The Queen was sufficiently recovered to accompany the King to Windsor on the twenty-first of the same month, and to be present the next day at the installation of Prince William, afterwards Duke of Gloucester, and the Earl of Bute, as knights of the order. This being the first installation in that order since the accession of His Majesty, the same was observed with unusual splendour. The appearance of St. George's Hall at the dinner was extremely grand; and the magnificence of this chivalric spectacle could only be equalled by the brilliant display of elegance and beauty at the ball in the evening. This was given in the Grand Armoury; and after several minuets and country dances, the company went to supper about twelve o'clock, in the three state rooms, which were open to all persons, who came properly dressed.

On this occasion Her Majesty, who was in uncommon spirits, wore a dress, the richness of which

may be appreciated from the value of the jewels that adorned her person; those of the stomacher being estimated at fifty thousand pounds, and one diamond alone at ten thousand.

In their return to town, the King and Queen stopped to view Eton College, and were met at the outward gates by the provost and fellows, who conducted them into the school. Here they were received by the masters and scholars, amounting to five hundred, standing in their places; between whom their majesties passed up to the chairs placed for them at the upper end; and being seated, the company standing behind them, one of the scholars advanced into the middle of the school, and addressed the King in an English speech, which was honoured with the royal approbation.

After going over different parts of the building; their majesties went into the chapel; and on their entrance the organ played a solemn piece of music, accompanied with other instruments. From thence they passed into the library, where several of the young noblemen were introduced to them: and the valuable collection of drawings belonging to the college being carried into the election chamber, the royal visitors were pleased to spend some time in examining what was most worthy of notice.

On going down from the provost's lodge into the quadrangle, all the scholars were drawn up in several lines, to salute their majesties as they

entered their carriage, with the joyful acclaim of "Vivant Rex et Regina!" At parting, the lord chamberlain, by His Majesty's order, left a handsome present of two hundred and thirty pounds, to be disposed of among the scholars, at the discretion of the provost and masters.

The birth of the prince gave occasion to numerous addresses, in which expression of loyalty the City of London took the lead, and was followed by the universities and most of the corporate bodies in the kingdom. One of the most striking of these complimentary effusions was that of [the archbishop, bishops, and clergy of the province of Canterbury.

"We feel," says this venerable convocation, "a very sensible pleasure from the increase of your Majesty's domestic felicity, in the addition of paternal to conjugal tenderness. But our views extend much further; and as we owe to your august house the preservation of every thing dear to us as men and christians, and have found each of your illustrious ancestors faithful guardians of all those distinguished advantages which we enjoy to the height under your Majesty's gracious government, so we trust that Providence hath designed us a pledge of the perpetuity of our happiness, in giving us a prince descended from such progenitors; for we know that his hereditary good disposition will be solicitously strengthened and improved by

the daily instruction and example of his parents, who will complete their merit to these nations, by forming his youthful mind to the love of religion, of liberty, of our civil and ecclesiastical constitution; to a judicious zeal for the prosperity of Great Britain, and a sincere benevolence to mankind in general. May these pleasing labours be successful in the highest degree! May the royal infant grow up in health and strength; become the joy and boast of the public by every valuable attainment; delight your Majesties by the most affectionate duty and gratitude, through an uncommon length of days mercifully granted you; and, born at the dawning of peace, may he see all his life the people of this land reaping the beneficial fruits of it to the utmost!"

To this address, so becoming the order of men by whom it was presented, His Majesty returned an answer, no less feeling and pious, in these words:

"I accept with thanks these new assurances of your regard to the Queen, and see with particular pleasure the expressions of your gratitude to Almighty God for the birth of the prince, my son.

"Your opinion of my fixed intention to educate him in every principle of religious and civil liberty, is truly acceptable to me.

"Be assured, that no endeavour on my part shall be wanting to promote the sacred interests of chris-

tian piety, and of moral virtue, and to transmit to posterity our present most happy constitution."

Nor was the address of the dissenting ministers, in and about London and Westminster, less animated in expressions of respect for the private virtues of the sovereign, while they congratulated him on this addition to his happiness.

"So great an accession to your Majesty's personal and domestic felicity," say they, "inspires us with the warmest joy, and calls for our abundant thankfulness to divine Providence, which, in thus augmenting your private happiness, and that of your most amiable consort, hath added fresh security to the public welfare, and afforded us the pleasing prospect, that the inestimable blessings which the nation derives from your Majesty's wise and gracious government, will be transmitted through your royal descendants to the latest generations."

"If any thing could add to our satisfaction on so delightful an occasion as the birth of an heir-apparent to the imperial crown of Great Britain, it would be the consideration, that his royal highness was born on a day which the protestant dissenters have always commemorated with the highest pleasure, and distinguished by the most ardent gratitude to heaven; a day that introduced your Majesty's family to the throne of these realms, and with it a period of happiness, private and public, civil and

religious, which this country never before enjoyed, and which, we trust in God, will, under your Majesty, and your illustrious successors, be continued and increased.

“ It is our united and fervent prayer to the King of Kings, that the life and health of the Prince of Wales may be preserved, and that, by the blessing of the Almighty, on your Majesty’s paternal instructions and engaging example, and the tender care of the Queen, his royal highness may grow up to the possession of every amiable and useful accomplishment, so as to become, in his day, the friend of religion and virtue, the patron of genius, learning, and knowledge, the guardian of liberty, the triumph of Britain, and the delight of human kind. And when you, great Sir, shall have arrived to the fulness of years, prosperity, and glory, then, and not till then, may he succeed to the same honours, and reign with equal dignity, happiness, and renown.”

Though it be true that congratulatory addresses, like dedicatory epistles, are generally of too ephemeral a description to merit preservation, they are sometimes entitled to particular notice, as marking the character of times and persons. Thus the compliments paid to their majesties, on the birth of the heir-apparent, were all divested of the incense so grateful to young minds, which is a proof that flattery was no acceptable offering at the British

court. In reality, these addresses might almost have been considered as wearing a monitory rather than an adulatory complexion; conveying instructions, in the form of confident anticipation, respecting the education of the present object of national joy.

Such was the language that met with the most gracious reception from a monarch who had but just completed his twenty-fourth year, and whose whole deportment, as well as that of his consort, evinced, that sincerity only was welcome to the throne.

Of the academic verses presented to their majesties upon this occasion, the most original, and by far the best, was the poem of Mr. Warton of Oxford, who took for his subject the recent installation at Windsor, which gave him ample scope for a rich display of romantic description, in calling up the chivalrous spirits who fought under the banners of the illustrious founder of the order of the garter. After touching on those times, when "heroic kings frowned on barbed steeds," the poet turned with a prophetic eye to a milder age, and thus apostrophized the castle of Windsor:

Then mourn not, Edward's dome, thine ancient boast,  
Thy tournaments and listed combats lost!  
From Arthur's board no more, proud castle, mourn  
Adventurous valour's Gothic trophies torn.  
'Those elfin charms, that held in magic night  
Its elder fame, and dimm'd its genuine light;

At length dissolve in truth's meridian ray,  
And the bright order bursts to purer day.  
The mystic round, begirt with bolder peers,  
On virtue's base its rescued glory rears ;  
Sees civil prowess mightier acts achieve,  
Sees meek humanity distress relieve ;  
Adopts the worth that bids the conflict cease,  
And claims its honours from the chiefs of peace,

The last lines were in allusion to the preliminaries of peace, the ratification of which took effect on the twenty-second of November this year, to the entire satisfaction of the King, and all his faithful subjects, who participated in his feelings, rather than in those of the Prussian monarch.

... To such a pitch, however, had the spirit of party risen, and so intoxicated were the people by the successes which had recently crowned our arms in North America and the West Indies, that the peace, instead of being hailed as a blessing, was treated with abhorrence as a national disgrace. Ministers were accused of abandoning the King of Prussia, and sacrificing the honour of their country for the gratification of their private interests. Though England had nothing to gain on the continent of Europe, nor any motive at all for the continuance of a war, which had already been prolonged beyond necessity, at an enormous expense, such was the public infatuation, that those men only were re-

garded as patriots, who inveighed most bitterly against government for putting a stop to the effusion of human blood. Even the King did not escape some of the obloquy which the outrageous violence of party poured forth upon this occasion; and, though he was not directly charged with designs hostile to the constitution, his calumniators accused him of having tarnished the dignity of his crown, by signing an inglorious treaty.

Now, when the contemplative observer traces, as from an eminence, the events of the last sixty years, he cannot but feel astonished and mortified at the audacious malevolence of faction, and the credulity of the multitude; the one in fabricating, and the other in believing, the grossest of all fictions, that the terms of the peace were settled by the gold of France. Yet this odious lie, rendered still worse by a particular application to individuals of rank and worth, found greedy auditors, and unprincipled reporters, who circulated it with avidity through every part of the empire. Thus the purest intentions were converted into crimes; measures of general utility were spurned as public injuries; and private character seemed to have lost its influence in repelling the shafts of malice.

One of the profoundest reasoners, and clearest writers this country ever enjoyed, the great Bishop Butler, thought that nations, as well as individuals,

may be occasionally seized with epidemic insanity; and, had he lived to the beginning of the following reign, he might have seen an illustration of his opinion, in the disposition of the people to rush into civil war, because the government had given them the blessing of peace.

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## CHAPTER VI.

*Domestic Happiness amidst public Disquietude.—Firmness of the King.—Acts of Royal Benevolence.—Her Majesty's charitable Institutions.—Remarkable Celebration of the Queen's Birthday, by Miss Chudleigh.—Her Majesty's Fête in Honour of the King and the Peace. Songs on the Occasion.—Birth of the Duke of York.—Marriage of the Princess Augusta to the Prince of Brunswick.—Queen's Present to His Majesty.—Residence at Richmond.—Case of the Palatines.—Zebra presented to Her Majesty.*

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FROM the contentions of faction, and the disquietude of the people, it is pleasing to turn to scenes of benevolence, and the spectacle of domestic tranquillity. If the King at this time was mortified by the increasing spirit of opposition, in which some of his own family took an active and leading part, through a preposterous love of war, and predilection for German politics;—if his paternal heart was wounded by the evil constructions put upon those actions, which had for their object the public good;—and if his filial piety was shocked by the basest calumnies circulated against the best of parents; he had within him a consciousness of integrity which enabled him to bear with firmness these severe trials, that multiplied the more in proportion

as he endeavoured to remove discontent, and to inspire confidence. These troubles were enough to have shaken the fortitude of one more experienced in the art of government; and had the young monarch not possessed stability of principle, and a source of comfort, to counteract them, there would have been little to wonder, and less to censure, in his falling under the complicated weight of evils which faction accumulated, to embroil the early part of his reign. But, as it was well observed by one of the periodical writers of the day, "The King sought for domestic happiness in the most amiable of wives; a state alone wherein true pleasure is to be found: and in this instance he not only manifested his affection for his people, by thus strengthening the perpetuity of the Protestant succession, but gave a severe check to celibacy, that most pernicious and fashionable evil, the bane of health, and the canker-worm of society."

The Queen's house was the seat of unembarrassed virtue and tranquil enjoyment, where neither political intrigues, nor scenes of dissipation, were carried on, to excite jealousy, and furnish matter for scandal. The Queen took no side in the jarring conflict of parties, except that of manifesting her gratitude for the restoration of peace, the blessing of which no one could more feelingly estimate than herself, who had been an eye-witness of the dreadful calamities and ruinous consequences of the war.

When, therefore, the preliminaries were ratified;

and Her Majesty saw that her native country would be relieved from misery and oppression, she expressed her thankfulness by 'a donation to the asylum for female orphans.. She also signified her intention of taking under her immediate patronage fifty girls, not under six years of age, the daughters of officers of the army, and a like number, the daughters of naval officers, who had fallen during the late war, leaving their families unprovided for. These objects of the royal benevolence were brought up in every necessary accomplishment, and completely maintained till they attained the age of eighteen years, when they were placed in families of the first respectability, or in other situations of credit, suitable to their inclinations. " 7

This noble design, having fully answered the views of the illustrious projector, was afterwards continued in the establishment of a seminary for a limited number of young ladies of good family, whose parents were in declining circumstances. The institution was formed upon a principle of the greatest liberality, with a house in town, and another in the country. The young ladies were dressed fashionably, but without extravagance; educated in every useful and ornamental branch of knowledge, and properly qualified in every respect to fill the first stations in society. 10 11 12 13 14

In these munificent actions, and every other, Her Majesty had the satisfaction to find that she met with the full approbation of the King, who

soon after the peace sent one thousand pounds the lord mayor of London, to be distributed among the poor, during the winter; and as his German estates had suffered dreadfully by the war, he, of his own accord, remitted all the taxes there for the period of three years.

A remarkable compliment was paid to Her Majesty on her natal day, after the peace, by the Honorable Miss Chudleigh, then one of her maids of honour, and afterwards the celebrated Duchess of Kingston. Of this fête, Horace Walpole gives the following account, in a letter to his friend General Conway:

“Oh, that you had been at her ball the other night! History could never describe it, and keep its countenance. The Queen’s real birth-day, you know, is not kept: this maid of honour kept it today, while the court is in mourning, expecting people to be out of mourning: the Queen’s family really was so; Lady Northumberland having desired leave for them. A scaffold was erected in Hyde Park for fire-works. To shew the illuminations without to more advantage, the company were received in an apartment, totally dark, where they remained for two hours. The fire-works were fine, and succeeded well. On each side of the court were two large scaffolds, for the virgin tradespeople. When the fire-works ceased, a large scene was lighted in the court, representing the

majesties, on each side of which were six obelisks, painted with emblems, and illuminated; mottos beneath in Latin and English: First, for the Prince of Wales, a ship, *Multorum Spes*. Second, for the Princess Dowager, a bird of Paradise, and two little ones, *Meos ad sidera tollo*. Third, Duke of York, a temple, *Virtuti et honori*. Fourth, Princess Augusta, a bird of Paradise, *Non habet parem*. Fifth, the three younger princes, an orange tree, *Promittat et dat*. Sixth, the two younger princesses, the flower crown imperial. I forget the Latin, the translation was silly enough, 'Bashful in youth, graceful in age.' The lady of the house made many apologies for the poorness of the performance, which she said was only oil-paper, painted by one of her servants; but it really was fine and pretty. Behind the house was a cenotaph for the Princess Elizabeth, a kind of illuminated cradle: the motto, 'All the honours the dead can receive.' This burying ground was a strange codicil to a festival; and what was still more strange, about one in the morning, this sarcophagus burst out into crackers and guns. The Margrave of Anspach began the ball with the virgin. The supper was most sumptuous."

Much more pleasing was the manner in which the Queen honoured the birth-day of her august partner this year.

On the fourth of June, in the morning, when

their majesties went to St. James's, the Queen proposed to her royal consort to stay there till Monday, the sixth; with which he complied. Soon after the King's departure from the Queen's house, a great number of persons were immediately in readiness, who worked on that day, and until the Monday, when they had completely finished the most superb pieces of scenery ever exhibited in England. The Queen, in order to draw His Majesty's attention, and to keep him longer at St. James's, desired several ladies to appear at court in their masquerade dresses before they went to the Duke of Richmond's ball; so that by this tender stratagem, His Majesty did not go from St. James's to the Queen's palace till near ten o'clock; when on suddenly throwing back the window shutters, His Majesty was agreeably surprised with the view of a most magnificent temple and bridge, finely illuminated, with about four thousand glass lamps erected in the garden. The painting on the front of the temple represented the King giving peace to all parts of the earth; and at His Majesty's feet were the trophies of the numerous conquests made by Britain; and beneath them were a group of figures, representing Envy, Malice, Detraction, &c. tumbling headlong, like the fallen angels in Milton. In the front of the temple was a magnificent orchestra, with above fifty of the most eminent performers. What His Majesty must have felt on receiving,

and the Queen in presenting, such a testimony of her love and respect, cannot be expressed nor conceived but by those whose lot it was to perceive it.

Most of the royal family were present; and a cold supper of upwards of one hundred dishes, with an illuminated dessert also, was provided. An ode suited to the occasion was composed by Dr. Boyce, who conducted the orchestra; besides which were sung the following songs:

To peace and love, in courts but seldom seen,  
This smiling day has sacred been;  
And may they here united reign,  
While winter chills, or summer warms the plain!

May she, whose duty is her joy,  
Still, still on tasks of love her hours employ,  
To cheer her King, to charm her friend:

On his and Britain's hope, with pleasure tend.

While, as he grows;  
While, with a mother's soft surprise,  
She sees, in him renew'd, his parent rise!

Let harmony reign,  
And let pleasure abound,  
While in sparkling champagne  
This health goes around:

"The KING!"—may his birth-day successively smile,  
With joy on himself, and with peace to his isle!

All white be his moments, and bear on their wing,  
In the brightness of summer, the softness of spring!  
May she, who bestow'd him on Britain this morn,  
Live long, his mild sway to applaud and adorn!  
May each royal guest, that around him is seen,  
Embrace as a sister, whom love made a Queen.

Then let harmony reign,  
Then let pleasure abound;  
While in sparkling champagne  
These wishes go round!

The ode performed on this occasion was as follows :

See white rob'd peace from heaven descend,  
The wish of nations and the friend.  
To glad this day again she visits earth,  
The sacred day that gave her patron birth.  
Where'er her vernal steps are seen,  
The laughing plain is drest in brighter green.  
A deeper blush inflames the rose :  
With purer light the rising lily glows.  
All nature smiles serenely gay,  
And hails, with glad applause, this happy day.  
Now, mark in that attending train,  
The blessings of his future reign.  
See his own Thames translucent glide,  
Whose floating forests daily ride,  
From east to west, from either pole,  
Where winds can waft, or waters roll :  
See boundless commerce spreads her sail;  
And wealth pours in with every gale.

See savage chiefs from wilds unknown,  
In kneeling homage at his throne!  
And last, to crown the festal morn,  
See Love himself the scene adorn.

'Tis he, 'tis LOVE, this heart-felt off'ring brings;  
While PEACE, his fair companion, smiles and sings;

I, who from greatness and from pride,  
Long hid me in the silent wood,  
At last dare in a court reside,  
For here the great is truly good:

Then sound each softer note, and sing  
The friend of man, a patriot king!  
Lo! through the round of Britain's isle,  
He gives the sister arts to smile.

See Painting, Sculpture, lift the head,  
Renew'd by his benignant eye!  
See one her glowing canvas spread,  
And one her forming chissel ply.

While, in their emulating strife,  
Lost chiefs and sages wake to second life,  
With them, behold the gay returning Muse,  
Who, in her king, a new Apollo views.

For him expands her wing of fire,  
The soul of worth, the sovereign of her song;  
Or softly sweeps her tender lyre,  
And bids calm days of peace his reign prolong.

Bids health, bids honour, own his gentle sway,  
And his whole year be one bright natal day!

He with my gracious olive crown'd,  
Diffuses joy the world around;  
But from a parent's kindest hand,  
Has pour'd it liberal o'er this happy land.

O! be our part,  
The grateful heart,  
For days of blissful peace again possess'd!  
Be this the joy,  
That cannot cloy,  
'The joy supreme, to have made millions blest!

These pieces are not here introduced on account of any peculiar beauty which they possess as poetical compositions, but to shew the extraordinary proficiency the illustrious writer had made in the English language, when she could express her ideas in it, not merely with correctness, but with a harmony of numbers. Not long after this, the same royal pen produced the following song on the King, the sentiments of which performance reflected as much honour upon the heart, as the flowing ease of the versification did upon the genius of the accomplished author.

Genteel is my DAMON, engaging his air;  
His face, like the morn, is both ruddy and fair:  
Soft love sits enthron'd in the beam of his eyes,  
He's manly, yet tender—he's fond, and yet wise.

He's ever good humour'd, he's gen'rous and gay;  
 His presence can always drive sorrow away;  
 No vanity sways him, no folly is seen,  
 But open his temper, and noble his mien.

By virtue illumin'd, his actions appear,  
 His passions are calm, and his reason is clear;  
 An affable sweetness attends on his speech;  
 He's willing to learn, though he's able to teach.

He has promis'd to love me—his word I'll believe,  
 For his heart is too honest to let him deceive;  
 Then blame me, ye fair ones, if justly ye can,  
 Since the picture I've drawn is exactly the man.

On the sixteenth of August, this year, about ten in the morning, Her Majesty was delivered of another prince at Buckingham House; her royal highness the Princess Dowager of Wales, several lords of the privy council, and the ladies of the bed-chamber, being present. The ceremony of baptism, which took place on the fourteenth of the following month, appears to have been attended with more splendid circumstances than even that of the heir-apparent. At eleven o'clock in the forenoon the Prince of Wales and his brother were brought from the Queen's palace to St. James's, and there shewn to the public through the windows. At twelve, Her Majesty followed, and entered the palace by a

communication opened on purpose to avoid going through the garden, along the wall of which a platform was erected, matted at the bottom, and covered all over with crimson baize. A little after seven in the evening the procession began in this order: the Lady Augusta, led by Prince William; Princess Louisa, by Prince Henry; Princess Caroline Matilda, by Prince Frederick; and the Princess Amelia, led by the Duke of Cumberland; then the nobility according to their rank, who all went into the great council chamber, where a most magnificent state bed was set up for the Queen to sit on; the coverlid, valens, and curtains, which last were made to draw up, being of the richest crimson velvet, adorned with gold fringe, and lined throughout with white satin: but the counterpane was made of lace of inimitable workmanship, and alone cost three thousand seven hundred and eighty pounds. The whole was of English manufacture. The office of baptism was administered by his grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, who christened the royal infant by the name of FREDERICK. The sponsors were the Duke of York, represented by the Earl of Huntingdon, groom of the stole, the Duke of Saxe Gotha, represented by Earl Gower, lord chamberlain; and the Princess Amelia in person. When the ceremony was over, the company, which was extremely brilliant, went into the Queen's apartment, and partook of caudle and cake. Two days

after the christening, Her Majesty, with the two children, returned to her own house, which now became the royal residence, the old palace being no longer used, except for public occasions.

The taste of the Queen in fitting up the interior of the palace excited universal admiration; and large commissions were sent to Italy for the purchase of paintings, antiques, and other curious articles, to enrich this favourite mansion. The Cartoons, which had so long adorned Hampton Court, were removed hither, and put up in the great saloon, the dome and ceiling of which were superbly enriched with various ornaments. But whether this removal was at the desire of Her Majesty, or of the King, is not quite certain. After some years these splendid memorials of Raffaele's genius were transported to Windsor, but they have since found their way back to the splendid though deserted pile from whence they were originally taken. At the period when Buckingham House became the settled abode of their majesties, when in town, a grand collection of books, drawings, and various works of art of great value, purchased for the King at Venice, were brought over, and deposited in the Queen's Palace, the library of which establishment, next to Her Majesty's domestic concerns, formed a favourite object of her care.

The commencement of the new year was distinguished by great preparations for the union of the

Princess Augusta to the hereditary Prince of Brunswick, which event took place in the great council chamber at St. James's Palace, on the sixteenth of January; after which the new married couple repaired to Leicester House, where they supped with their majesties, the Princess Dowager of Wales, and the other branches of the royal family. On this occasion, the King presented his sister with a diamond necklace, worth thirty thousand pounds; the Queen gave a gold watch of exquisite workmanship, set with jewels; and the Princess Dowager with a diamond stomacher of immense value.

This marriage gave an uncommon brilliancy to the court on the birth-day, the concourse of coaches being so great, that many of the nobility were obliged to get out in St. James's Square, and proceed to the palace in chairs. The ball in the evening was no less numerous and splendid; and what gave peculiar interest to the scene, was the opening of it, by the Prince and Princess of Brunswick.

Two nights afterwards they accompanied their majesties to Covent Garden theatre, to see the new comedy of "No one's enemy but his own;" and so great was the crowd, that the playhouse passages and the piazzas exhibited nothing but one connected living mass; and even the streets were so thronged as to render it difficult for the carriages to get along without accident. So great was the

curiosity of some ladies to see the hereditary prince, that several offered five guineas for a seat in the boxes and were refused. But the pressure at the Opera House on the following Saturday exceeded that to a degree beyond all description. The carriage could not come near the door, on which account many of the nobility were under the necessity of mixing with the throng, which was so great that several ladies were in danger of being crushed to death. All respect for rank and sex was lost; and some gentlemen being imprudent enough to draw their swords, increased the confusion to such a degree, that many persons fainted away, while others in the struggle to extricate themselves, had their clothes torn from their backs. The crowd was not much less about the palace on the Monday following, when Her Majesty held another drawing-room in honour of the Prince and Princess of Brunswick, who, with the different branches of the royal family, and many of the nobility, were entertained in the evening at the Queen's house, with a grand concert, ball, and supper. This was by way of taking leave of their serene highnesses, who set out for the continent on the ensuing Wednesday, accompanied to the coast by several persons of distinction; so much had the princess endeared herself to all who knew her, by the virtues of her heart, and the uniform sweetness of her manners.

The parting of the King from his sister could

scarcely be more tender than that of the Queen and the princess, between whom the sincerest friendship had subsisted ever since their first interview ; and here it merits observation, that though too generally marriage among the great creates a distant formality and reserve in the family circle, Her Majesty had the happy art of conciliating the esteem of every member of the illustrious house into which she had entered. Even the growing love of the King did not make them jealous of her influence ; nor when faction was employed in forging calumny from day to day, could its basest tools ever dare to charge the Queen with an improper use of the ascendancy which she possessed over the affections of her consort.

Perceiving how suspicious the public were on the subject of patronage, and adverse to the employment of foreigners, she carefully abstained from giving any peculiar encouragement to the natives of Germany. Even her own family received little else than honorary marks of distinction from their illustrious relative. The reigning Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, indeed, was honoured this year with the order of the garter ; his brother, Prince Charles, was appointed governor of Zell, and the younger brother, Prince George, after spending some months in England, obtained a commission in the Hanoverian service. Her Majesty made some considerable presents also to several of her rela-

tions and other friends, such as an elegant sword, the hilt of which was gold set with diamonds, to her elder brother, and services of Chelsea china, pictures, and watches, to her sister and the princesses of the family of Schwerin, with whom she continued to maintain a most amicable correspondence.

On the King's birth-day this year, Her Majesty surprised her royal consort by presenting him with the portraits of their children, painted in enamel, and set in a ring ornamented with brilliants, the whole executed by English artists.

Such were the pleasing means which the Queen employed to rivet the bonds of affection round the heart she loved, powerful as the Cestus of old, that could "win the wisest, and the coldest warm."

After the birth-day, Her Majesty left town to reside for the summer at Richmond Lodge, where the two princes caught the hooping-cough; and such was the maternal solicitude of the Queen, that she attended them night and day, the consequence of which was a miscarriage to herself, and a severe, though happily a short illness. The disorder of the children also abated as the summer advanced, and the danger was so far over by the twelfth of August, that an entertainment was then given at the lodge, with a ball for the young nobility, on which occasion more than a thousand lamps were lighted up in the gardens, and some very brilliant fire-works exhibited at night.

Public sympathy was greatly excited this summer by the distressing situation of six hundred Palatines and Wurtzburghers, who arrived in the river from Germany, under a pledge of being conveyed to the Island of St. John, in the Gulph of St. Lawrence, at the expense of an officer, who, however, being unable to carry his speculation into effect, deserted these unhappy victims of his cupidity, after bringing them so far from their native land. Thus abandoned in a strange country, many of the wretched creatures lay about in the fields, exposed to the inclemency of the weather, and totally destitute of food, while about two hundred remained on board the ship which brought them over, on account of their passage not being paid for, and where they of course suffered dreadfully from want and sickness. This melancholy case was made known to the public through the medium of the papers, by the Reverend Dr. Wachsel, minister of the Luthernan chapel in Little Ayliffe Street, Goodman's Fields, who, in his very affecting account, stated the following fact:

“One of the poor women was seized with the pangs of labour in the open fields, and was delivered by the ignorant people about her in the best manner they were able; but from the injury the tender infant received in the operation, it died soon after baptism, and the wretched mother, after receiving the sacrament at my hands, expired, from the want

of proper care and necessaries suitable to her afflict-  
ing and truly lamentable condition."

An appeal to British feelings is never made in  
vain, and no sooner did this picture of human mi-  
sery come before the public, than the flame of bene-  
volence was kindled on the instant, and diffused it-  
self from heart to heart. Their majesties were not  
the last on this occasion. The King issued an or-  
der to supply the destitute with tents from the  
Tower, and the passage money of the two hundred  
who were still confined in the ship was also paid  
out of his purse, besides which, both he and the  
Queen set on foot a subscription among the nobi-  
lity, setting the example themselves by three hun-  
dred pounds each. A committee was also formed  
for the relief of the wretched foreigners; and His  
Majesty gave personal directions to the ministers  
that the poor people should be sent to Georgia and  
South Carolina, and there established with all ne-  
cessary comforts.

It may seem ludicrous to close this chapter after  
so touching a narrative, with an exhibition of ani-  
mals, but biography is necessarily mixed, and we  
must take our transitions according to the order of  
time, without considering the description of the  
events. Among other presents which were made  
to Her Majesty, a female zebra attracted most no-  
tice, and excited considerable amusement. By the  
royal courtesy, this animal was shown to the people,

first in the Mews, and afterwards in the paddock behind Buckingham House, but owing to the rudeness of the populace, the zebra, and an elephant which had been exhibited at the same place, were removed to the menagerie in the Tower. An entertaining French writer, under the assumed character of a Chinese spy, thus exercised his wit on this subject, at the expense of English credulity.

“The Queen’s she-ass, at her arrival here, was pestered with visits, and had all her hours employed from morning to night in satisfying the curiosity of the public. She had a centinel and guard placed at the door of her stable. If the Duchess of Modena had come to London, she would have scarcely received such marks of distinction. The crowds that resorted to the Asinine palace were exceeding great. Fame also played its part here, and entertained the public with marvellous accounts of the beautiful tail, the long ears, and the shining tabby skin of this charming beast. As her apartments were not fitted to receive much company, her picture was drawn, to satisfy those who could not have the happiness of approaching her person.”

## CHAPTER VII.

*Gaming prohibited at Court.—Intended Marriage of the Princess Caroline-Matilda.—Distress of the Silk Weavers.—Conduct of the Queen.—Her Encouragement of British Manufactures.—Becomes the Patroness of the Magdalen, and of the Lying-in Charity.—Maternal Solicitude.—Address of the Welch Society to the Prince of Wales.—Illness of the King.—His Recovery, and Speech to the Parliament.—Regency Bill.—Splendid Celebration of the King's Birth-day.—Fête of the Countess of Northumberland.—Anecdote of the Queen.—Delivered of a Prince.—Arrival of the Prince and Princess of Brunswick.—Medal on the Election of the Bishop of Osnabrug.—Birth of Prince William-Henry.—Spirit of Party.—Death of the Duke of Cumberland, and of Prince Frederick-William.—Queen's Birth-day.—Birth of the Princess-Royal.—Death of the Duke of York.—Birth of the Duke of Kent.—Order on Court Mournings.*

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It had long been a custom at the English court to celebrate Twelfth-day, with religious ceremonies in the morning, and amusements resembling the Roman Saturnalia in the evening. But the worst thing attending the entertainment at night consisted in an indiscriminate allowance of hazard playing throughout the palace; in consequence of which many thousands were lost even in the royal presence. Nothing certainly could be more scanda-

lous on a religious festival, or unbecoming the regal character, than such licensed gambling: and yet the practice had gone on to the present reign, not only without correction, but even without censure. His Majesty, who all his life abhorred gaming, being desirous of getting rid of this abuse, at first restricted the number of tables, then limited the hours of play, and lastly banished hazard altogether from his palaces. After this interdiction, which excited much discontent in the household, cards were substituted; but when it was found that the evil had only changed its name and appearance, and that under the cover of privilege, deep play was still practised at St. James's, by collusion with the domestics, an order was issued that no kind of gaming, whatever should be carried on there, under the penalty of expulsion.

At the meeting of parliament on the tenth of January, 1765, His Majesty announced the consent which he had given to a union between his sister, the Princess Caroline-Matilda and the Prince-Royal of Denmark. As, however, the parties were yet in their minority, this ill-fated marriage, though the terms were now settled, did not take effect till two years afterwards.

The distressed state of the weavers in Spital-Fields, at this time, occasioned considerable sensation, and was much felt by the Queen, who did all that lay in her power, by example, and personal

solicitation, to prevail upon the ladies who attended court to lay aside all foreign silks, and wear no article of dress but what was wholly of the manufacture of the country. This patriotic spirit exhibited a striking contrast to the conduct of the principal nobility, who, after the peace, sent large orders to Paris for almost every kind of ornament, when the traders and artisans of their own country were suffering the greatest privations for the want of employment.

Her Majesty was never more delighted than when she had an opportunity of advancing the interests of the kingdom, by encouraging to the utmost of her ability works of native art and industry. Of this an instance occurred when the trustees for improving the manufactures of Scotland transmitted to Colonel Graeme a piece of linen of exquisite workmanship, to be presented to the Queen, who, for obvious reasons, received it at the levee, that it might attract general observation: after which, the colonel was directed to write a letter to the trustees, expressing Her Majesty's wishes for the success of their endeavours to promote the welfare of the country.

In a nation like this, where the power of the Queen consort is necessarily very contracted, and hardly exceeds that of any other head of a great family, such acts ought to be considered as flowing from innate goodness, and not as the result of policy.

From the same pure principle of benevolence, Her Majesty became the patroness of the Magdalen Charity; by which means that institution was enabled to triumph over the prejudices which had been raised against it in the public mind, as one rather calculated to encourage vice than to reclaim the unwary.

That sentiment of considerate benignity also produced at this time an official notification, which was sent to all the regiments of foot guards, and troops of horse, acquainting those soldiers who were lawfully married that their wives should be admitted into the Lying-in Hospital, and that their children should be provided for.

Such, at this early period of her life, were the favourite objects of the Queen, next to the attention she paid to her children, whose opening minds she cultivated with the most sedulous care; not leaving them, as some would have done, to the management of attendants, but indulging herself with their innocent prattle, sharing in their little amusements, and leading them cheerfully into the first paths of knowledge.

This maternal solicitude was not an excess of fondness, which spoils the objects of its regard, but an affectionate concern for the growing improvement, and future welfare of the important charge with which Her Majesty considered herself entrusted. Little incidents frequently elucidate mat-

ters of moment: and how properly the parental duties were discharged at this period might easily have been inferred from the manner in which the Prince of Wales received the stewards of the Society of Ancient Britons on the anniversary of their tutelary saint. After a short complimentary address, in which the gentlemen of the principality expressed their loyalty, and explained the objects of the charity, they concluded with saying: "Your royal parents remember no period of their lives too early for doing good; and when a few years shall call forth your virtues into action, your royal highness may, perhaps, with satisfaction reflect upon your faithful Ancient Britons thus laying themselves at your feet."

To this address the Prince listened with the utmost attention; nor ever once while it was delivered did his eye wander with infantile levity from the persons before him; to whom he replied, with the greatest distinctness and propriety: "Gentlemen, I thank you for this mark of duty to the King, and wish prosperity to this charity."

His Majesty was not present at this interesting scene, having been confined some time by an indisposition, the nature of which was cautiously kept from the public. Conjectures, however, multiplied on the occasion; and it was pretty generally surmised that the seat of the disorder lay in the brain; but no professional reports were then made upon

the subject; nor did the case come under parliamentary observation, though both houses were then sitting.

The trial of the Queen in this exigency was very great; and the more so, as she was far advanced in a state of pregnancy. She continued, however, to go to the Chapel Royal in state, and hold drawing-rooms; by which means no alarm was excited in the nation. The answers to inquiries were favourable; and such information was communicated through the journals as indicated an assurance of a speedy recovery. Meetings of the cabinet, indeed, were held on the occasion; but nothing transpired of their consultations, which was the more surprising, considering the state of parties at that time, and the extreme irritability of the people respecting public affairs.

Things stood in this uncertainty above a month, during which Her Majesty displayed the greatest fortitude, though her private feelings suffered considerably. At length the King was sufficiently recovered to appear at a levee, held on the fifth of April; and on the twenty-fourth of the same month His Majesty went to the House of Peers, where he delivered the following speech from the throne:

“ My Lords and Gentlemen,

“ The tender concern which I feel for my faithful subjects makes me anxious to provide for

every possible event which may affect their future happiness or security.

“My late indisposition, though not attended with danger, has led me to consider the situation in which my kingdoms, and my family, might be left, if it should please God to put a period to my life whilst my successor is of tender years.

“The high importance of this subject to the public safety, good order, and tranquillity; the paternal affection which I bear to my children and to all my people; and my earnest desire that every precaution should be taken which may tend to preserve the constitution of Great Britain undisturbed, and the dignity and lustre of its crown unimpaired, have determined me to lay this weighty business before my parliament. And as my health, by the blessing of God, is now restored, I take the earliest opportunity of meeting you here, and of recommending to your most serious deliberation the making such provision as would be necessary in case any of my children should succeed to the throne before they shall respectively attain the age of eighteen years.

“To this end, I propose to your consideration, whether; under the present circumstances, it will not be expedient to vest in me the power of appointing from time to time, by instruments in writing, under my sign manual, either the Queen, or any other person of my royal family, usually

residing in Great Britain, to be the guardian of the person of such successor, and the regent of these kingdoms, until such successor shall attain the age of eighteen years, subject to the like restrictions and regulations as are specified and contained in an act passed upon a similar occasion, in the twenty-fourth year of the reign of the late king, my royal grandfather; the regent so appointed to be assisted by a council, composed of the several persons, who, by reason of their dignities and offices, are constituted members of the council, established by that act, together with those whom you may think proper to leave to my nomination."

The following day both houses addressed His Majesty, congratulating him on his recovery, and promising to take the particular object suggested to them into their immediate consideration. This was done; but though in the one house a bill passed conformably to the royal proposition, in the other a very fierce opposition took place, respecting the nomination of the person or persons in whom the regency should be vested. By the act referred to in His Majesty's speech, it had been expressly stipulated that the Princess Dowager of Wales should be the guardian of the successor, and regent of the kingdom, in case of a minority on the death of the King and her husband. But such was the spirit of party on the present occasion, that a

violent opposition was set up against even naming the princess dowager at all in the regency bill ; and, what was more extraordinary, this omission met with the sanction of ministers, who, in fact, were jealous of her influence.

The regency bill, however, passed both houses, and, on the fifteenth of May, received the royal assent, though it was followed, naturally enough, by a complete disunion between the King and his cabinet ministers, who, beyond all question, had acted in a gross spirit of insult to the royal sensibility, without the shadow of any reason for such a proceeding.

But it deserves observation, that amidst these personal and acrimonious contentions, no reflection was ever made upon the Queen, a sure evidence that she stood perfectly clear of all political intrigues : but, what was still more remarkable, at the very time when the princess dowager, was so much an object of persecution, her royal highness continued to cherish the tenderest affection for her daughter-in-law, whose sterling virtue formed indeed the universal theme of admiration.

The birth-day of His Majesty was kept this year in a manner that must have given great satisfaction to his feelings, and to those of the Queen, for the court was attended by a most numerous assemblage ; and all who appeared there made it a point to wear dresses of English manufacture. Among the ladies, the Countess of Northumberland drew the princi-

pal attention, the jewels which she wore on the joyful occasion being estimated at the value of one hundred and fifty thousand pounds.

Painted silks, the production of Spital Fields, were the prevailing fashion; and one young lady of exquisite beauty appeared to such advantage, as to give rise to the following lines, which were ascribed to no less a person than the Queen.

STELLA's gay robe with so much art was fram'd,  
That Flora the invention might have claim'd :  
So fair was STELLA's face, so bright her eyes,  
She seem'd that goddess in a sweet disguise.

Many houses in the great squares and public streets were illuminated at night; and fire-works were exhibited, with two lofty pyramids of lamps, upon Tower Hill. The French ambassador, Count de Guerchy, outrivalled even the English nobility on this occasion, for the entire front of his house in Soho Square was covered with lamps, tastefully disposed, and producing a most beautiful effect.

On the following day His Majesty's ministers gave very grand entertainments; but the assembly of the Countess of Northumberland attracted the greatest share of public observation. The extensive gardens were illuminated throughout in the forms of triumphal arches, pyramids, and columns, resembling spiral flames, dispersed among

the trees. In the centre of the lawn was a magnificent temple, ornamented with transparent paintings; and three large bands of music were so judiciously disposed in different parts of the gardens as to preserve perfect harmony.

The Queen had a great esteem for this countess, who was no less attached to Her Majesty, which she evinced in a splendid festival given to Prince Ernest of Mecklenburg. Of this entertainment, Horace Walpole says in one of his letters:—

“Not only the whole house, but the garden was illuminated, and was quite a fairy scene. Arches and pyramids of lights alternately surrounded the enclosure. A diamond necklace of lamps edged the rails and descent, with a spiral obelisk of candles on each hand; and dispersed over the lawn were little bands of kettle-drums, clarionets, fifes, &c. and the lovely moon, who came without a card.”

At one of the levees this summer, a pleasing instance occurred of royal urbanity. As Her Majesty was passing to the drawing-room, she observed a group of seven young female quakers, whom curiosity had drawn to court on that day, chiefly to see the Queen, who no sooner beheld them, than she stopped, made an inclination of her head, and directed the lady in waiting to compliment the strangers in her name, as well as to shew them every attention during their stay. These perhaps are tri-

fles, but it is in such slight incidents that the mind is discerned, and from them may the true character be accurately ascertained.

Much of Her Majesty's time was now employed on the internal improvements of her palace, and particularly in fitting up the library, which, besides the addition of Queen Caroline's collection, was enriched with above two thousand of the most valuable books in different languages. Several fine paintings were also procured from abroad, and a complete series of family portraits was sent over by the reigning Duke of Mecklenburg. While the Queen was thus employed at her residence in town, the two children remained at Kew, where the birth-day of the eldest prince was celebrated this year by an entertainment given to the young nobility and gentry of the neighbourhood, in the presence of their majesties. The same day her royal highness the Princess Dowager of Wales held a public levee on the occasion in town; and the circumstance is here mentioned, as shewing the cordiality that subsisted between the heads of this illustrious house at that time, and how careful the King and Queen were to see that all honour should be paid to their august relative, when the most infamous libels were spread about the town, to the injury of an excellent woman, of whom it might be said:—

No might nor greatness in mortality  
Can censure'scape. Back-wounding calumny  
The whitest virtue strikes.

The birth-day of Prince Frederick this year was also attended with a peculiar circumstance, there being distributed on the occasion four thousand gold and silver medals, in commemoration of the election of his royal highness to the episcopal principality of Osnabrug. The medal, which was executed by Thomas Pingo, represents on one side the figure of Hope resting on a shield, bearing the arms and crown of the royal bishop, and on a pedestal are the mitre, crozier, and sword; the motto, SPES PUBLICA—"the hope of the nation." On the reverse is the following inscription:—

FREDERICUS M. BRIT. PR. EPISCOPUS.

OSNABRUG, D. BR. ET LUN.,

ANNUENTE

GEORGIO TERTIO,

M. BRIT. FR. H. R. F. D.

D. BRUNSV. ET LUNEB.

S. R. I. A. ET ELECT.

PATRE. ET REGE. OPT.

POSTULATUS EPISC.

XXVII. FEBRUARI,

MDCCLXIV.

It may be proper here, in the way of explanation, to observe, that this bishopric, by the treaty of Westphalia, in the year 1648, was so regulated as to be held alternately by the Lutheran and Roman Catholic interests; but in consequence of the many

valuable and important sacrifices which the house of Brunswick had made for the sake of a general peace, it was expressly stipulated, that the Protestant nomination should always be in favour of one of the younger branches of the family of Brunswick Lunenburg.

On the twenty-first of August, 1765, between two and three in the morning, Her Majesty was taken in labour at her palace; and a message being despatched for her royal highness the princess dowager, she repaired thither instantly, as also did the Archbishop of Canterbury and the great officers of the crown. At a quarter before four Her Majesty was delivered of another prince; which event was announced to the public by the firing of the tower guns, and at night there were several illuminations. Observers on this occasion could not help remarking how auspicious the month of August had been to the house of Brunswick; George the First having succeeded to the throne of these realms on the first of August, 1714: August the eleventh, 1737, her royal highness Princess Augusta was born: August the first, 1759, Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick gained the victory of Minden: August the twelfth, 1762, gave an heir-apparent to the British throne: August the sixteenth, 1763, Prince Frederick was born; and now, on the twenty-first of the same month, their majesties were favoured with a third son.

But such coincidences, curious as they may

appear on a retrospective view, prove nothing, as the chances of similar events happening on the same point of time are often favoured by natural circumstances, and predisposing causes. An attention to fortunate days, however, constitutes one of the fragments of ancient superstition, which reason and revelation have hardly yet entirely obliterated. When Cromwell died, a tremendous tempest arose, which the friends and enemies of the usurper interpreted according to their respective prejudices; but what his admirers, who were believers in predestination, dwelt upon most was, that the day of his death happened to be the anniversary of all the great achievements of his memorable life.

The new prince was baptized at St. James's on the evening of the eighteenth of September, by the Archbishop of Canterbury, in the presence of their majesties, the whole royal family, and a very illustrious assembly of English and foreign nobility. The royal infant received the name of William-Henry; and the sponsors were the Duke of Cumberland, and the hereditary Prince and Princess of Brunswick; both of whom had but recently arrived in England. There were bonfires lighted up on the occasion; and large quantities of liquor were distributed among the populace.

The next day a grand drawing-room was held at St. James's, to compliment the Queen on her first appearance at court: and the Prince of Wales being

present, with his royal brother, their majesties were so condescending as to appear with them at the windows of the palace for a considerable time, to the gratification of numerous spectators.

Of the state of party spirit at the time of this addition to the royal family, some idea may be formed from the conclusion of the city address to His Majesty on a circumstance, which, of all others, it might have been reasonably supposed, was the very last to draw forth political spleen. But the good citizens of London could not let even this occasion pass, without mixing some of the wormwood of discontent in their offering of congratulation. After a few hackneyed compliments, expressed in vulgar phrase, these enlightened advisers of the King told him, that “whenever a happy establishment of public measures should present a favourable occasion, they would be ready to exert their utmost abilities in support of such wise councils as apparently tended to render His Majesty’s reign happy and glorious.”

In plain English, this was saying that they would regulate their obedience by the conformableness of the King to the directions which they, in their consummate wisdom, should suggest for his government. The court of common-council, however, did not escape with impunity; for the indecency of their conduct, and the absurdity of their language, brought upon them a torrent of wit, which exposed

them to general ridicule. One anonymous writer thus addressed them: "I know not how it is, the city of London, like our modern herd, of poets, of late, appear to think that any language is good enough for their sovereign. Our ingenious bards, so they string together half a dozen complimentary stanzas on the birth of a prince, never trouble their heads either about the sense or the application: any sort of poetry is well enough for kings and queens; and if the delightful compositions are not favourably received at court, why let the court go without congratulations. In like manner, the gentlemen of the common-council, so they offer an address, give themselves no concern whatsoever about the propriety either of the sentiment or the diction. If it is calculated to please, good; if not, why let it go. They are accustomed to speak their minds to their sovereign; and he must bear the indelicacy of a paragraph that would be thought highly culpable in an advertisement for the office of bridge-master, or the still more humble avocation of an ale-conner."

The sudden death of the Emperor of Germany this year greatly affected the Queen, who wrote a very pathetic letter of condolence to the dowager empress, Maria-Theresa; and the King sent another at the same time, written with his own hand, to the son and successor of the deceased monarch. Little, however, did their majesties think that a similar event

would soon occur in their own family. This was the death of the Duke of Cumberland, which happened about eight o'clock in the evening, on the thirty-first of October: and the shock was the greater, as the same afternoon his royal highness had been at court, apparently in good health and spirits: from thence he went and dined with Lord Albemarle in Arlington Street; then drank tea with the Princess of Brunswick at St. James's; and returned to his house in Upper Grosvenor Street about seven, to assist at a council, which was appointed to be held there the same evening. He had been at home but a few minutes, when he complained of a shivering fit; and almost as soon as Sir Clifford Wintringham, the King's physician, arrived, he fell breathless on the sofa. The duke, who was extremely corpulent, a little time before his death earnestly advised His Majesty not only to use considerable exercise, but to impose upon himself a strict course of regimen, as the only effectual means of preventing obesity, and attaining a good old age. This counsel made a strong impression upon the mind of the King, who from that time became very abstemious in his mode of living, and never, for a period of more than half a century, has he been once known to indulge in the pleasures of the table.

The death of the Duke of Cumberland was very much lamented by the nation, on account of his personal good qualities, and the popularity which

he had acquired in extinguishing the rebellion. His political opinions and connexions were not in unison with those of the King, who, however, on this occasion evinced the magnanimity of his mind; for when the Earl of Albemarle, the duke's executor, waited upon his Majesty with the key of the cabinet containing the papers of the deceased prince, it was immediately returned, with a request that the noble lord would destroy such papers as in his judgment the duke himself would have done, and to preserve those only which he imagined might be of public service.

This melancholy event was quickly followed by another, in the death of His Majesty's fourth brother, Prince, Frederick-William, at the age of fifteen years, after a severe illness of fourteen months duration. He had been tapped in the course of the summer, but the relief afforded by the operation was merely momentary; the disorder returned with aggravated symptoms, baffling all medical skill, and he expired on Sunday afternoon, December the twenty-ninth, at the house of the princess dowager. The character given of him was that of "a prince ever to be regretted by those who had the honour to approach him, and ever to be proposed as a pattern of patience, meekness, and fortitude. The gracefulness of his person, great as it appeared, gave but an imperfect idea of the exalted qualities of his mind. His submis-

sion to the decrees of providence, his affection and dutiful behaviour to his royal mother, to the King, and to the rest of his illustrious family, were ever uniform and exemplary. His manly sense and uncommon penetration exceeded even the most sanguine hopes of those who were entrusted with his education. During his long and painful illness, his chief and only care was not to give pain to others : he not only lessened but even concealed his own sufferings before them, and was wholly employed in giving them comfort ; which attention extended itself even to the lowest of his domestic servants."

The remains of this excellent prince and those of his royal uncle were interred with great solemnity in the chapel of Henry the Seventh in Westminster Abbey.

In consequence of these breaches in the family, the celebration of Her Majesty's birth-day was postponed to the twentieth of February, 1766, when the same was observed with peculiar splendour; but the notice of the circumstance is not otherwise of moment, than for the fact that not a single person appeared at court, except foreigners, in any other dress than the manufacture of Great Britain; and it was said that some of the silks worn on that occasion were so richly wrought as to have cost thirty-six pounds a yard in Spital Fields.

All this was truly to the honour of their majesties, whose exertions in behalf of the trade of the coun-

try were unremitted: and it was solely owing to them that a bill passed this session of parliament prohibiting the importation of all foreign silks and velvets, for a limited period, under severe penalties.

The week after the birth-day the two elder princes were inoculated at the Queen's palace, in the presence of their majesties. The operation was performed by Pennel Hawkins, surgeon extraordinary to the King, under the direction of his father, the late Cæsar Hawkins, Sir Clifford Wintringham, Sir William Duncan, and Sir John Pringle.

This was an incident of no slight consequence at that time, when the prejudices against inoculation ran high, and people were even told from the pulpit by one of the most zealous preachers in London, that it was presumptuous to offer prayers for the Prince of Wales, who was now taken out of the hands of God, and committed to the hands of men.

But their majesties were both of them superior to the narrow notions which prevailed on the subject of a most valuable discovery; and they evinced as much parental affection as patriotism, in thus countenancing, by their example, a practice, that not only tended to abridge the catalogue of human miseries, but led the way to the only effectual means of exterminating the most deadly enemy of population.

On the first of September the unfortunate Caroline-Matilda was espoused at St. James's, her brother,

the Duke of York, being the proxy for the King of Denmark, and the next morning early she set off from Carleton House for Harwich. The parting scene between the young queen and her mother was described by those who saw it as of the most distressing nature; and this indeed was evident to the spectators in Pall-Mall, who were so moved by the weeping countenance of this blooming sacrifice to an ill-judging policy, that, in a spirit of genuine sympathy, they suffered her to depart, without afflicting her more by their boisterous acclamations.

On the twenty-ninth of the same month the Queen was happily delivered of her first daughter, an event which gave great pleasure to the royal family and the nation. The court was crowded with visitors to pay their compliments on this joyful occasion, but the old ceremony of giving cake and candle at the palace of St. James's had nearly proved disastrous to many females. Before the doors were opened, at five o'clock, thousands had assembled; and the rush for admittance was so violent, that some well dressed women were nearly killed by the pressure. The yeomen of the guard, after letting in the foremost, were obliged to make use of their battle axes to keep back the rest; and having succeeded with difficulty in clearing the entrance, they suddenly shut the gates upon the multitude without, who vented the bitterest complaints on the inhospitality with which they were treated.

The christening of the royal infant took place on the twenty-seventh of the following month, when she was named Charlotte-Augusta-Matilda, the sponsors being the King of Denmark, represented by the Duke of Portland; the Queen of Denmark, represented by the Countess of Effingham; and the Princess Louisa-Anne in person.

Information of the pleasing addition to the royal family of Great Britain was despatched immediately by a special messenger to the court of Strelitz, where the intelligence produced very lively demonstrations of joy, for so much was Her Majesty beloved in the place of her nativity, that the people always manifested a tender solicitude for her welfare, whenever it became known that she was in a state of pregnancy. At this time Dr. Nugent was present there, having been sent over by the Queen herself to collect materials for the completion of the "*History of Vandalia*," the first volume of which he had already published. According to his account, the people throughout Mecklenburg spoke in raptures of the endearing affability of the Queen, while they who had been most intimately acquainted with her were no less loud in praise of her intrinsic virtues and pre-eminent talents.

On the seventeenth of September, 1767, died his royal highness Edward-Augustus, Duke of York, while on his travels in Italy. He was the next brother to the King, and much beloved by the nation

for the pleasantness of his manners, and the liberality of his disposition. He also possessed quick parts, which he had considerably improved by reading and observation.

Travelling was his great delight; and he made himself very popular wherever he came. At Monaco, where he died of a malignant fever after fourteen days illness, the greatest honours were paid to his remains, which lay in state, till removed to the ship that conveyed the coffin to England for interment in the royal vault in Westminster Abbey.

In the preceding year, this amiable prince travelled through several parts of the kingdom; and at Bristol he was entertained by Bishop Newton, who, in his very entertaining memoirs, says—"that all the company were surprised and delighted with the pertinence and propriety of the duke's questions and discourse concerning the trade and commerce of the place. Dr. Lyttleton, Bishop of Carlisle, being one of the company, some mention was made of his brother's history of Henry the Second, which was then in the press; and the Duke of York observed upon it, that he was sorry Lord Lyttleton recurred back to so remote a period: he wished, that instead of writing the history of the life and reign of Henry the Second, he had written the history of the life and reign of George the Second. One memorable the duke related of himself, and that was, when he was upon his travels, his practice was

to rise early every morning, and then to recollect and set down in writing all the transactions and occurrences of the preceding day, so that by turning to his diary he could presently find where he had been, and what he had seen, and with whom he had conversed such an 'hour.' . . .

On the second of November, this year, the family received a further increase in the birth of a prince at the Queen's House in St. James's Park; and on the thirteenth of the same month his royal highness was baptized by the name of Edward: the sponsors were the hereditary Prince of Brunswick, represented by the Earl of Hertford; Prince Charles of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, represented by the Earl of Huntingdon; and the Landgravine of Hesse Cassel, represented by the Duchess of Hamilton.

The mixed address of congratulation and condolence which the city of London sent up to the throne, on the two events that had recently occurred in the royal family, formed so complete a contrast to that of the preceding year, on the birth of the princess, as to draw from His Majesty this very remarkable answer:

"I thank you for this loyal address, and for the satisfaction you express in the increase of my family: these expressions of your zealous attachment cannot but be agreeable to me. The religion and liberties of my people always have

been, and ever shall be, the constant objects of my care and attention; and I shall esteem it one of my first duties to instil the same principles into those who may succeed me.

“ I regard your condolence, on the melancholy event of the Duke of York's death, as an additional proof of your attachment to me and my family; and I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks for it.”

The solicitude of His Majesty for the general welfare of his people was evinced at this time in a resolution taken by him to abridge the period allotted for the ceremonial of public mourning. His attention was drawn to this by the inconvenience of three court mournings at the same time, one of a national concern for the Duke of York, and two others for foreign princesses. Sensible how detrimental this must be to trade, the King spontaneously caused an order to be issued from the chamberlain's office, that for the future all court and general mournings should be shortened to one-half of the time which had been hitherto observed.

For this act of paternal consideration, His Majesty received the thanks of the great body of manufacturers and traders of London in an address, presented by the lord-mayor and aldermen. A separate address on the same occasion was also carried up to St. James's by the weavers of Spital Fields, whose appearance in procession, with variegated

banners and streamers emblematic of their business, had a very pleasing effect.

Their address concluded in the following complimentary terms to the Queen, which must have been peculiarly gratifying to the feelings of the monarch.

“At the same time,” said they, “that we offer up our tribute of thanks to your majesty, we should think ourselves very ungrateful to your majesty’s royal consort, if we did not humbly express our sense of the great obligations we lie under to Her Majesty, for her generous patronage and encouragement of our silk manufacture: and we are bound to make the same acknowledgment to the rest of the royal family, for the distinguished preference they give to the wrought silks of this kingdom.”

## CHAPTER VIII.

*Fire in the Queen's Nursery.—Death of the Princess Louisa-Anne.—Arrival of the King of Denmark.—Entertainment at the Queen's Palace.—Masked Ball.—Birth of the Princess Augusta.—City Address.—Violence of Party.—Royal Fortitude.—Exemplary Virtue.—Drawing-room of the Princes.—Supper and Ball.—Inflammatory Conduct of the Lord-Mayor.—Birth of Princess Elizabeth.—Verses to the King.—Princess Dowager quits the Kingdom, but returns.—Anecdote of the Queen.—Household of the Prince of Wales.—Lord Chesterfield's Character of the Queen.—Birth of Prince Ernest-Augustus.—Robbery of the Queen's Palace.—Extraordinary Impostor.*

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ON the nineteenth of February, 1768, an alarming fire broke out in the nursery at the Queen's palace, but fortunately it was discovered in sufficient time to prevent any serious damage, though it must have been smothering some days, as the joists were actually burnt to a coal. This accident very much agitated their majesties, who were at this time resident in town, under considerable uneasiness about the Princess Louisa-Anne, the King's sister. Her royal highness had been for some months troubled with a hectic cough, which at length put on the appearance of a rapid consumption, that baffled all me-

dical assistance, and carried her off, to the inexpressible grief of the whole family, on the thirteenth of May, in the twentieth year of her age.

The gloom occasioned by these successive breaches in the royal house was somewhat dissipated in the course of the summer, by the arrival of the young King of Denmark, whose propensity to travelling induced him to leave his country for a tour in Germany and France, from whence he came over, rather unexpectedly, to England. Here he remained above two months, during which he abundantly gratified the curiosity of the public by the exhibition of his person, which Horace Walpole thus describes: "I came to town to see the Danish king. He is as diminutive as if he came out of a kernel in the Fairy Tales. He is not ill made, nor weakly made, though so small: and though his face is pale and delicate, it is not at all ugly, yet has a strong cast of the late King, and enough of the late Prince of Wales, to put one upon one's guard not to be prejudiced in his favour. Still he has more royalty than folly in his air; and considering he is not twenty, is as well as one expects any king in a puppet-show to be. He arrived on Thursday, supped and lay at St. James's. Yesterday evening (the twelfth) he was at the Queen's and Carlton House; and at night at Lady Hertford's assembly.' He only takes the title of Altesse, 'an' absurd mezzotermine, but acts the king exceedingly; struts in the circle

like a cock-sparrow, and does the honours of himself very civilly."

On the nineteenth of September the illustrious traveller was entertained at the Queen's palace, with a grand supper and ball, at which were present the Princess Dowager of Wales, with the rest of the royal family, besides numbers of the nobility and foreign ministers. Every thing was conducted on a scale of splendid magnificence, suited to the occasion; and the company, by a very unusual indulgence, maintained their festivity till four in the morning. A fortnight afterwards the Danish monarch gave a grand masked ball to the nobility and gentry, at the Opera House, which was entirely filled at his expense, and every kind of luxury was provided for the numerous assembly. The Queen, however, did not even go thither as a spectator, having a radical aversion to that species of amusement; but the King's two brothers were there, and the Princess Amelia. His Majesty, from curiosity, and a wish to oblige his new relative, went in a most private manner, and sat some time in an inclosed box, with shutters, which enabled him to take a view of all that passed, without being seen.

On the eighth of November this year the royal family received a farther addition in the birth of another princess, to whom was given the name of Augusta. In congratulating His Majesty on this occasion, the corporation of London professed the

warmest loyalty, unmixed with the slightest allusion to the political ferment which then prevailed. This change in their language the King could not but notice, and his reply marked the satisfaction which it afforded him.

“I receive,” said he, “with the greatest pleasure, this dutiful and affectionate address: and return you my hearty thanks for your congratulations on the happy delivery of the Queen, and the birth of the princess; as well as for the repeated assurances you give me of your loyalty, and attachment to my person and family.”

The following year was remarkable for the perturbed state of the public mind, owing to the arts of political incendiaries, whose libels were but too successful in blowing up the flames of sedition almost to the height of rebellion. But while the friends of government trembled for the throne, the King maintained his seat with firmness, repelling the insults which were offered to his face with silent dignity: and even when the furious rabble, instigated by the firebrands of misrule, committed the most violent outrages before the gates of the palace, the fortitude of His Majesty never once forsook him; nor could the menaces of faction shake the resolution which he had formed of living and dying with the laws and the constitution.

To suppose that the King did not suffer inwardly amidst the tempest that surrounded him, the ca-

lumnies which were daily poured forth against the purity of his motives, and the probable dangers to which the nation was exposed, by the audacious efforts of pretended patriots, would be doing the greatest wrong to his principles and his feelings. By the former, however, he preserved the country, while the latter made him tender towards his enemies, and compassionate to the people who were deluded by their artifices.

In the bosom of his family, the King found relief under the evils that oppressed him; and his richest consolation, next to that derived from the consciousness of the rectitude of his intentions, lay in the virtues of his august consort, whose conversation calmed his spirits when agitated with the cares of royalty, and whose fertile mind was continually exercised in devising pleasing expedients to divert his thoughts when he was in a state of anxiety. Among other ingenious schemes which Her Majesty adopted at this period, was that of causing a drawing-room to be held by the Prince of Wales and the Princess-Royal. The novelty of the thing was attractive; and the spectacle itself was calculated, if any sight could produce such an effect, to soften the malignant faction, and to make the people ashamed of their own credulity, in yielding to the machinations of unprincipled demagogues.

This drawing-room took place on the twenty-fifth

of October, 1769, the day of His Majesty's accession, and was held in the late Princess Amelia's apartments at St. James's. The Prince of Wales was dressed in scarlet and gold, with the ensigns of the Order of the Garter: on his right was Prince Frederick, Bishop of Osnabrug, in blue and gold, with the ensigns of the Order of the Bath: next to him, on a rich sofa, sat the princess-royal, with the two younger princes at her right hand, elegantly clothed in Roman togas.

The appearance of so many fine children excited the most lively sensibility in the company; but the sight was rendered still more delightful by the very graceful manner in which the Prince and his sister conducted themselves toward the elegant assemblage by whom they were surrounded.

With a similar intention of allaying the infuriated passions of the people, the Prince was again brought forward to public notice, in a ball and supper given by him at the Queen's palace on the nineteenth of March, in the following year. But, as if on purpose to counteract the impression likely to be made by these pleasing acts of courtesy, Beckford, the lord-mayor, who ruled predominant in the city, gave a sumptuous entertainment at the Mansion House to the friends of Wilkes, and all who were active on the side of opposition. This audacious proceeding, to call it by no worse a name, added oil

to the flame of faction; and several persons in the metropolis, of known loyalty, had their windows demolished by the mob.

Among the objects of the popular rage, Mr. David Barclay, in Cheapside, was marked out in a manner so very particular, as plainly shewed that the rabble, thus collected by the folly, or something worse, of the lord-mayor, were actuated by a spirit ripe for rebellion, since nothing in Mr. Barclay's conduct could have induced such outrages, but the entertainment which he had formerly given to their majesties. When the multitude attacked his house, Mr. Barclay sent out some of his servants to observe the most active of the rioters, by which means two of the ringleaders were afterwards apprehended, and brought before Beckford, who, instead of committing them, proposed that they should pay for the damage which had been committed. Mr. Barclay, however, with becoming spirit, refused the offer, saying that he came for justice on the offenders, and not for money; in consequence of which, the magistrate, much against his will, was obliged to send the men to the compter. During these tumults, the mob dragged a hearse into the court-yard of St. James's, decorated with insignia of the most scandalous description; but the King remained firm in the drawing-room, whilst the court-yard and the streets resounded with the shouts of anarchy.

On the twenty-second of May Her Majesty was

delivered of a princess, who was baptized on the seventeenth of the following month, by the name of Elizabeth. Being thus prevented from appearing in public on the ensuing birth-day, the Queen presented to her beloved consort the following stanzas, written with her own hand in pencil, and which we may be sure were not less acceptable to him than the annual tribute of the Laureat on the same occasion.

## I.

When monarchs give a grace to fate,  
And rise as princes shou'd,  
Less highly born, than truly great,  
Less dignified, than good :

## II.

What joy the natal day can bring,  
From whence our hopes began,  
Which gave the nation such a king,  
And being, such a man !

## III.

The sacred source of endless pow'r,  
Delighted sees him born,  
And kindly marks the circling hour,  
That spoke him into morn.

## IV.

Beholds him with the kindest eye  
Which goodness can bestow ;  
And shews a brighter crown on high  
Than e'er he wore below.

Such testimonies of fond affection more than counterbalanced the uneasiness occasioned by the madness of the people, and the desperate designs of an ungovernable faction. So dismal, indeed, was the aspect of affairs at this time, that the princess dowager actually went abroad, with the secret intention of ending her days in the Palace of Zell, that mansion which not long afterwards proved an asylum to her unfortunate and persecuted daughter. It was now thirty-four years since the princess had left her native land, for a country where she experienced little else than a series of trouble, after the death of her husband. On the accession of her son, she had reason to hope for other days, and to expect that her declining life would be spent in peace: instead of which, a new storm arose, and she found herself infinitely worse treated than when her family were deprived not merely of the pleasures, but in a great measure of the necessary comforts of their elevated station. Goaded by every species of insult, it was no wonder that the princess should take up a resolution of quitting for ever a nation where she was continually exposed to the most unfeeling and undeserved injuries. Her royal highness accordingly embarked for the continent with a large suite, on the eighth of June, but at the earnest entreaty of the King, she altered her mind, and returned by the way of Calais, at the end of October.

In the course of this summer, the Prince of

Hesse Darmstadt, with his family, visited London, in a very private manner; but though the illustrious strangers chose to be unknown during their short stay, they received particular marks of attention and respect from their majesties.

The Queen, in a sportive humour, took a rich diamond and pearl necklace, and desired the young Princess of Hesse to put it on, which being done, she said the ornament became her so very well, that it would be a pity to take it off again, and desired that she would wear it for her sake.

Hitherto, all the royal children had been kept chiefly under the constant observation of their parents at Richmond and Kew; but the Prince of Wales being now in his ninth year, it was deemed proper that he should be more in town, for the convenience of his tutors. Accordingly, a separate household was appointed for his royal highness at the Queen's Palace, and an order was issued on the eleventh of May, 1771, for the constant attendance of a chaplain in waiting to read prayers there every day. About this time, an attempt was made by Lord Chesterfield to get that ingenious but profligate divine, Doctor Dodd, appointed tutor to the Prince; but the King rejected the application, in a manner that plainly shewed how superior his judgment in estimating the character of men was to that of this celebrated peer. Having mentioned Chesterfield, however, it would be unjust to pass

over in silence his observation on the supposed political influence of Her Majesty :

“ You seem,” said he to his correspondent, “ not to know the character of the Queen : here it is—she is a good woman, a good wife, a tender mother, and an unmeddling queen. The King loves her as a woman, but, I verily believe, has never spoke one word to her about politics.”

On the fifth of June, 1771, Her Majesty was delivered of another prince, named Ernest-Augustus, now his royal highness the Duke of Cumberland.

An extraordinary circumstance occurred in this year, which, while it manifested the goodness of the Queen, proved that mercy may sometimes be injurious to the public. A woman, named Sarah Wilson, who attended the honourable Miss Vernon, one of the maids of honour, having found her way into one of the royal apartments, broke open a cabinet, which she rifled of several valuable jewels, and carried them off with several other articles.

The robbery was soon discovered; and the thief being detected, was committed for trial, convicted, and sentenced to death. Through the gracious interposition of the Queen, however, the culprit received a pardon, on condition of being transported for life, and accordingly she was sent to Maryland, where she was purchased by Mr. Devall, of Bush Creek, in Frederic county. But shortly after her arrival in America, she contrived the means of

escape, and making her way to Charlestown, South Carolina, she there assumed the title of Princess Susannah-Carolina-Matilda, giving herself out as the sister of the Queen. The clothes which she *had carried with her favoured the deception, and the more so, as she still possessed some of the stolen articles, among which was a miniature of Her Majesty.* She pretended that her reason for seeking an asylum on the transatlantic shore was to avoid a marriage into which she was about being forced by her august relations.

Strange as this tale was, many respectable persons believed it; and as the impostor had seen enough of a court to ape its forms, she succeeded admirably, being received with profound respect in many families of the first consequence. She even went so far as to admit persons to the honour of kissing her hand, and made large promises of preferment to those who had faith in her pretensions.

Some of the gentry in the province, indeed, suspected the trick, and endeavoured to undeceive their neighbours, but with little effect; and she continued to levy pretty large contributions upon the credulous, till the fame of the princess, reaching the ears of her master, he sent a messenger with powers to apprehend her as a runagate; and then the bubble burst, to the confusion of the honest people of Carolina.

## CHAPTER IX.

*Marriage of the Duke of Cumberland.—Royal Marriage Act.—The Duke of Gloucester avows his Marriage.—Persecution of the Queen of Denmark.—Death of the Princess Dowager of Wales.—Attention of their Majesties to Her Royal Highness.—Infamous Attacks upon her Character.—Her Liberality.—An Encourager of Botany.—Improvements in the Garden at Kew.—Censures passed on the plain Style of the English Court.—Silence of Junius in regard to the Queen.*

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MOST inauspiciously did the year 1772 open to the royal family of Great Britain, but more particularly distressing to the private feelings of the King. The conduct of his brother, the Duke of Cumberland, had very recently been brought before the public, in a manner that could not but sensibly affect His Majesty, who, from the high notions which he entertained of his own duty, could ill endure any indecorum in those about him. Scarcely had the Duke of Cumberland, however, passed through the severe ordeal of a judicial investigation on an action for criminal conversation, than the public papers announced his marriage with the widow of Mr. Horton,

a Derbyshire gentleman. This new act of indiscretion, and total want of respect to the sovereign, not only produced an order forbidding the duke and his consort from appearing at court; but a message to parliament, recommending a new legislative provision for preventing any of the royal family from marrying without the consent of the King, his heirs, and successors. Accordingly, a bill to this effect was brought into the House of Lords, by which it was enacted, that none of the royal family, being under the age of twenty-five years, should marry without the King's consent; but, that on attaining the above age, they might be at liberty, in case of his refusal, to apply to the privy council, announcing at the same time the name of the person they were desirous of espousing; and if within a year neither house of parliament should address the throne against it, the marriage might be solemnized.

This bill did not pass without a violent opposition, in both houses; and it must be confessed, that the arguments against it were much more plausible than those by which the necessity of the measure was advocated. "To prohibit a man," said the opponents, "from contracting a marriage during his whole life, or, what amounts to the same thing, to render his power of contracting such marriage dependant, not on his own choice, or upon any fixed rule of law, but upon the arbitrary will of any man, or set of men, is a stretch of power incompatible with any human

legislature. The liberty of marriage is a natural right inherent in mankind; a right that has been confirmed by divine institution; a right which cannot be taken away by any laws of man's making. There is a total difference between regulating the mode of enjoying a right derived from nature, and the assuming or granting a discretionary power which tends to its annihilation. While, therefore, it is acknowledged reasonable and expedient, that the marriage of minors, as well as the exercise of all their other rights, should derive validity only from the consent of their parents or guardians, there is no power that can justly keep men and women of sound minds in a state of endless nonage. Though the legislature has a right to prescribe rules for the regulation of marriage, the assumption of a power to impose indefinite restrictions upon matrimony is a gross violation of the laws of nature." This argument, upon general principles, was followed by a particular application to the supposed exigency of the case on which the present act was framed, it being observed, that the bill was more likely at any conjuncture, where the succession should come to depend upon the construction of it, to produce a civil war than a peaceable settlement. It was also forcibly remarked, that the natural consequence of the restraint laid upon the marriage of the royal family would be to hurry them into libertinism and an irregular course of life; a consequence that ought to be

guarded against with the greater care, in proportion to the extensive and dangerous influence of their example upon the inferior orders of society. This was a cogent objection upon the strong ground of moral principle; nor was it less ably contended in a political point of view, that the bill was essentially wanting to its own purpose, in having provided no remedy against the greater evil arising from the improper marriages of the princes of the blood royal into foreign families; nor any against the issue of princesses so married disturbing the succession, and thereby, in certain cases, as much affecting the interest of the nation as the marriages of resident princes with native subjects.

Notwithstanding the opposition which this measure encountered, and naturally considering the interests of the noble families likely to be affected by it, the act passed into a law. But neither the displeasure professed by the King, nor this decision of the legislature, could deter the Duke of Gloucester from making a public avowal of the marriage which he had contracted five years before with the Countess Dowager of Waldegrave, and the grand-daughter of the celebrated Sir Robert Walpole.

Of this act, it may now, without offence, be observed, that however commendable might be the motives from whence it originated, it has certainly been more injurious than beneficial to the august line which it was intended to preserve. Time has

shewn the impolicy of attempting to guard against uncertain and remote evils, by laying restraints upon the imprescriptible rights of mankind, and the immutable laws of nature. Though the present reign has been extended to an unparalleled length, and the progeny with which it has been blessed is numerous, the existing state of the illustrious house of Brunswick is far from justifying the expectations of those who considered this act as the surest hedge that could be planted for its security.

At the very time when the bill was in its progress through parliament, a tragical scene, in proof of the baleful effects of political marriages, was exhibiting in Denmark, where, through the mental imbecility of the king, his amiable consort, Caroline-Matilda, became a victim to the rancorous hatred of the queen dowager, Julia-Maria, a woman of such fell malignity, that the mother of Hamlet, in the comparison, would have been as the odoriferous myrtle to the deadly nightshade.

The old queen, who was intriguing, ambitious, and vengeful in the extreme, placed what affection she had upon her younger son, Frederick, for whom she wished to secure the succession, hoping, from the weakness of the eldest, that this object would soon be accomplished. The alliance entered into with the British court could not but add the poison of jealousy to a spirit already envenomed with unnatural hatred, though she smothered her malice till

the return of the king from his foreign ramble, which strange measure was instigated by herself, the better to mature her designs. During the absence of her son, and his minister, Bernsdorff, this artful woman succeeded in strengthening her party, which increased by the subsequent conduct of the king, whose habits rendered him contemptible in the eyes of his subjects. The only difficulty in getting possession of the supreme power was in what manner to dispose of the young queen, upon whom, as a matter of right, the regency would otherwise devolve, in case of her husband's demise or insanity. The necessity of removing Caroline-Matilda being thus obvious as a preliminary measure, the plot was formed of charging her with treasonable practices. In such a country as Denmark, accusation and condemnation, where the state is concerned, are synonymous; and the unsuspecting queen, without receiving the least intimation of any crime being alleged against her, was arrested in her bed-chamber, and hurried to the castle of Cronenburgh.

The savage execution of the two ministers, Struensee and Brandt, upon the most equivocal charges, was a prelude of the intended fate of the queen, who would certainly have suffered also, had it not been for the spirited interposition of her brother. That the conspirators in Denmark should have ventured such lengths without fear of incurring the vengeance

of this country seems extraordinary; but the fact is, they were led to believe that it was out of the power of the British monarch to resent the wrong done to his sister. The state of England was considered all over the continent as verging on civil war; and this idea received sufficient colour to render it probable, from the scandalous outrages that were exhibited at that time in the metropolis. The Danes, however, were soon convinced of their mistake in this respect; and Sir Robert Keith, by his firmness, succeeded in obtaining the liberation of the unhappy Matilda, who was conveyed to Zell, where she died of a broken heart three years afterwards. In closing this melancholy story, it may not be unacceptable to relate one instance of becoming spirit which the queen shewed under her misfortunes; and when she had every reason to dread the worst from her implacable enemies. Out of mere mockery, a committee of enquiry was formed, to investigate the charges against Her Majesty; but, like true inquisitors, they went to Cronenburgh to put interrogatories to the royal prisoner, who plainly told them "that if they came to pay their duty to her as their queen they were welcome; but if their object was only to ask questions, they might return from whence they came, as she was determined not to hear any thing they had to say."

The shock produced on the mind of her brother by this intelligence from Denmark was rendered more

painful by the death of his mother, on the ninth of February. The princess dowager had indeed been long in a very indifferent state of health, and her disorder was aggravated in no small degree by this very marriage, to which she was from the beginning exceedingly averse, amounting to a presentiment that it would prove unhappy. The King and Queen used to go and see her every evening at eight o'clock; but when she grew worse, they went at seven, pretending they mistook the hour. The night before her death, they were with her from seven to nine, during which she kept up the conversation as usual, retired to rest at ten, and died at six the next morning. On the sixteenth of the same month, the body of her royal highness was interred in Westminster Abbey, by the side of her beloved husband.

Never, perhaps, was there a more striking instance exhibited of the instability of sublunary happiness than in the history of this excellent princess. For many years she was the idol of the people of England, and enjoyed in the bosom of her family the greatest comforts; but, at the close of life, without the least fault whatever, she was held up to public scorn, and traduced beyond all example. The profligate author of the *North Briton* began the attack upon her character; and when asked by one of his acquaintance, who was shocked at the abuse, whether he really had any authority for his assertions, he said, "No, but that the people would believe

any thing that was said against their superiors." Yet these aspersions made so little impression on the mind of the princess, that she would often ask in the morning, " Well, what have the papers said of me ?" After which, she read the most scurrilous paragraphs, without any other emotion than that of a smile. But though unmoved by the calumnies daily poured out against her, she was sensibly affected by the troubled state of the kingdom, the breaches made in her family, and especially the misfortunes of her beloved daughter, which last stroke evidently hastened her dissolution.

The princess left no will, for she had nothing to bequeath, her charities having kept an even pace with her income; and it was ascertained that she expended no less than ten thousand a-year in the support of indigent families, none of whom knew from what source their relief came, till the secret was discovered by the death of their benefactress. The charge brought against her of exercising an undue influence over her son was utterly false, and a mere artifice of the faction to inflame the public mind. As a proof of the contrary, it was universally known that her husband left many debts unliquidated, some of which remained in that unsettled state after the accession of His Majesty. But so far was the princess from taking any advantage of this change, she continued to pay off these claims out of her own annual income, till the whole outstanding debts were entirely

cleared. The only patronage she ever exercised was in appointments wholly at her own disposal; and these she bestowed without any solicitation; an instance of which may be mentioned in her nominating Dr. Stephen Hales to be her clerk of the closet, on whose death she erected, at her own expense, a monument to his memory in Westminster Abbey. He was succeeded, in the same liberal manner, by the celebrated Dr. Edward Young: and as a farther proof of her readiness to encourage men of merit, when Dr. Doddridge issued proposals for publishing by subscription his *Family Expositor*, the princess exerted herself with uncommon earnestness in promoting that valuable work. The only luxury, if it could be so called, in which she indulged, was the improvement of her garden at Kew. Her botanical knowledge was extensive; and she spared no cost in procuring rare plants from every part of the world. It was, therefore, gratifying to the princess, when she found that the Queen had a congenial taste; and this made the residence of her royal highness perfectly delightful to her, the intercourse between the two families being daily, and conducted without any formality. She was steady in her friendships, and very indulgent to her servants, being always anxious to give them as little trouble as possible; and when any of them were past labour, she took care to provide comfortably for their declining years. Her understanding was solid;

her temper placid, and her religion unaffected. Her constant prayers were offered for the happiness of the King and Queen, whose filial conduct, she repeatedly acknowledged, was the great support she had under the severe trials with which she was visited. Bishop Newton, who had been for many years intimately acquainted with the princess, thus concludes a neat eulogium upon her, in his memoirs:

“The calmness and composure of her death were farther proofs and attestations of the goodness of her life; and she died as she had lived, beloved and honoured most by those who knew her best.”

After this loss, their majesties left the Old Lodge at Richmond for the palace at Kew, which continued to be their principal abode for some years. By taking in Kew Lane, which separated the two royal gardens, both were now thrown into one, the beautifying and enriching of which formed the chief amusement of the Queen, whose additions to that inestimable collection of exotics evinced the ardour of her zeal for the advancement of science. Her Majesty received numerous presents both for her hot-houses and menagerie, which last was also extremely curious; and the recent discoveries made in the Southern Ocean contributed very largely to increase her stock of natural history. Among the variety of novelties brought from that part of the world, one was remarkable enough, being nothing less than the woven crown taken from the head of Queen Oberea,

and sent by herself as a token of vassalage to Her Majesty.

The retired manner in which the royal family of England lived at this time surprised foreigners, who could scarcely believe that this was a voluntary act of the sovereign, and especially of his august consort. A French nobleman, of high diplomatic character, once said that this want of splendour and gaiety had an ominous aspect, that tended to a revolution, little thinking how soon the levity of his own court would hasten the destruction of the government, and inundate the land with blood.

It is remarkable, however, that the same circumstance should have been made the subject of reproach against the King by an anonymous libeller, who, under an impervious obscurity, sent abroad his poisoned arrows with the dexterous hand and treacherous heart of an American savage. But, while the sovereign was basely represented as "secluded from the world, neither opening his heart to new connexions, nor his mind to better information," even the malignant Junius dared not venture to launch one of his envenomed shafts at the conduct of the Queen. That Junius was withheld by principle from doing so, the whole course of his tactics forbids the belief, for he was both a republican and an infidel, whose morals were subservient to his passions, and who cared little about the truth of what he asserted, provided he could distress his adversary, and impose

upon the credulity of the people. Junius had a personal enmity to the King, and the whole drift of his diatribes went to embarrass the government, and to wound the private feelings of His Majesty. Gladly, therefore, would such a wretch have planted another thorn in the side of the monarch, if he could have found any point to fasten upon in that quarter, where the infliction must have been felt with the most agonizing sensibility. But the character of the Queen rose beyond the power of Junius; and this midnight slanderer, conscious that any attempt to assail it would recoil upon himself, slunk away before the brightness which awed him into silence.

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## CHAPTER X.

*Birth of Prince Augustus-Frederick.—Maternal Attentions of the Queen.—Regard for Religion.—Dr. Beattie's Interview with their Majesties.—Character of Lord Dartmouth.—Birth of Prince Adolphus-Frederick.—Anecdote of the Prince of Wales and Duke of York.—Royal Benevolence.—Sketch of the Daily Life of the King and Queen.—Moderation in Dress.—Check put upon extravagant Fashions.—Singular Article in a Foreign Gazette.—Verses to the Queen by Lord Clare.—Petition of the Maids of Honour.*

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ON the twenty-seventh of January, 1773, the Queen was delivered at her house in the park of a sixth prince, who was baptized by the name of Augustus-Frederick, on the twenty-fifth of the following month, in the great council chamber at St. James's Palace. Soon after this addition to the family, now increased to nine children, Carleton House, that had been unoccupied from the death of the princess dowager, was ordered to be repaired and fitted up for the reception of the elder princes, who were under the care of Lady Charlotte Finch. Both the King and Queen appeared as if they were anxious to escape from the parade of royalty; and on that

account, though obliged to be in town on certain days, they never failed to hasten back in the evening to enjoy their tranquil retreat at Kew. Here the tenor of life ran in an even course. In the morning, while His Majesty was engaged on business, or in his study, the Queen employed herself in music, embroidery, or drawing, having generally the princess-royal or some of the younger children with her, their improvement being one of her most favourite occupations. After spending an hour or two in this agreeable manner, the royal party, with their attendants, either took an airing in the neighbourhood, or a walk in the gardens; and so attentive was the Queen to her children, that she never trusted the youngest of them out of her sight on these occasions. While in the nursery, she visited them; and when they had finished their lessons with Miss Planta, or the late Rev. Mr. de Guiffardiere, their French instructor, she had them brought into her presence, examined their progress in learning, and gave them such commendation as she found they deesrved.

The deep sense which she had of maternal duty appeared not only in her own example, but in her intercourse with others, of which the following instance is a proof. Being in conversation with a celebrated duchess, she asked after her children; and when her grace said that she believed they were doing very well, as they had a most excellent governess and faithful servants, who took the greatest care of

them, "What," replied the Queen, "do you leave them entirely to their attendants? That is more than I dare to do; for it is impossible that servants, however true they may be, or affectionate, can have the feelings of a parent." The duchess, somewhat abashed, endeavoured to justify the practice, but was stopped with this just rebuke: "There can be no apology for the neglect of the first of duties: it is enough that you are a mother, and converse with one; and I should be sorry to suppose you in the slightest degree indifferent, where you ought to possess the greatest sensibility."

The conduct of Her Majesty was a perfect illustration of this sentiment. Though the royal children had their proper attendants and instructors, who were all selected with the greatest care, and approved themselves worthy of their important trust, the Queen watched over them daily with as much concern as if they had no other person to look after them. In the first stage of infancy, they were caressed with parental fondness: in the more advanced state of childhood they lisped their lessons to her attentive ear; and as they grew upwards, she was their umpire, when differences arose among them; their oracle when they wished for information in difficulties; and not only their mother, but their guide, counsellor, and confidential friend.

The strong sense of religion which animated their majesties made them exceedingly solicitous to im-

imbue the minds of their children with the principles of Christianity, as soon as they were capable of comprehending the subject. They were not left to pick up this fundamental point of knowledge as a matter of course, or taught it merely in compliance with custom; but they were instructed in the whole history of the gospel, and the great doctrines which it reveals, as the motives of duty. If there was one thing more than another which excited the apprehensions of the King and Queen, it was the alarming spread of infidelity. They saw with deep concern the popularity of publications, which had no other aim than to undermine, by ridicule or sophistry, the faith that had stood the test of ages. Their majesties, therefore, set themselves, with a generous regard for their subjects, and a sacred reverence for truth, in opposition to the prevalent corruption. They shewed by their own example, that religion with them was something more than kneeling in public, and that they did not place morality in a mere form of prayer. Their mode of living exhibited a system of regularity which proved the solid integrity of their character, and the perfect sincerity of their religious principles. Men of licentious minds indeed sneered at this virtue; and there were not wanting some writers shameless enough to abuse the King for his piety. But the reproach of the wicked only served to confirm the resolution it was intended to shake; and the scoffers had the addi-

tional mortification to see the royal patronage liberally extended to men who advocated religious truth in spite of obloquy, and planted its standard triumphantly upon the ruins of false philosophy: Among these was the late professor Beattie, of Aberdeen, whose book on the Immutability of Truth, against Hume, was so acceptable to the King and Queen, that an unsolicited pension of two hundred pounds a-year was bestowed upon the author in the most handsome terms.

The professor happening this year to visit Oxford, at the installation of the chancellor, Lord North, was presented with the honorary degree of doctor of laws, in a manner highly gratifying to his feelings. On his coming to town, Dr. Beattie was informed that the King would be glad to have an interview with him; and of this visit he has given so particular an account in his Diary, that to abridge it would be to weaken its effect. It follows, therefore, in his own words:

“Tuesday, the twenty-fourth of August, 1773, set out for Dr. Majendie's, at Kew Green. The doctor told me that he had not seen the King yesterday, but had left a note in writing, to intimate that I was to be at his house to-day; and that one of the King's pages had come to him this morning, to say that His Majesty would see me a little after twelve. At twelve, the doctor and I went to the King's house at Kew. We had been only a few

minutes in the hall, when the King and Queen came in from an airing; and as they passed through the hall, the King called me by name, and asked how long it was since I came from town. I answered him, about an hour. 'I shall see you,' says he, 'in a little while.' The doctor and I waited a considerable time, for the King was busy, and then we were called into a large room, furnished as a library, where the King was walking about, and the Queen sitting in a chair. We were received in the most gracious manner possible by both their majesties. I had the honour of a conversation with them, nobody else being present but Dr. Majendie, for upwards of an hour, on a great variety of topics, in which both the King and Queen joined, with a degree of cheerfulness, affability, and ease, that was to me surprising, and soon dissipated the embarrassment which I felt at the beginning of the conference. They both complimented me in the highest terms on my Essay, which they told me was a book they always kept by them; and the King said he had one copy of it at Kew, and another in town, and immediately went and took it down from a shelf. I found it was the second edition. 'I never stole a book but one,' said His Majesty, 'and that was your's' (speaking to me). 'I stole it from the Queen, to give it to Lord Hertford to read.'

“He had heard that the sale of Hume's Essays had failed since my book was published; and I told him

what Mr. Strahan had told me in regard to that matter: He had even heard of my being at Edinburgh last summer, and how Mr. Hume was offended on the score of my book. He asked many questions about the second part of the Essay, and when it would be ready for the press. I gave him, in a short speech, an account of the plan of it, and said my health was so precarious, I could not tell when it might be ready, as I had many books to consult before I could finish it; but, that if my health was good, I thought I might bring it to a conclusion in two or three years. He asked how long I had been in composing my Essay, praised the caution with which it was written, and said that he did not wonder that it had employed me five or six years. He asked about my Poems. I said there was only one poem of my own on which I set any value (meaning the Minstrel); and that it was first published about the same time as the Essay. My other poems, I said, were incorrect, being but juvenile pieces, and of little consequence, even in my own opinion.

“ We had much conversation on moral subjects; from which both their majesties let it appear that they were warm friends to Christianity; and so little inclined to infidelity, that they could hardly believe that any thinking man could really be an atheist; unless he could bring himself to believe that he had made himself—a thought which pleased the King

exceedingly, and he repeated it several times to the Queen. He asked whether any thing had been written against me. I spoke of the late pamphlet, of which I gave an account, telling him that I had never met with any man that had read it except one quaker. This brought on some discourse about the quakers, whose moderation and mild behaviour the King and Queen commended.—I was asked many questions about the Scots universities, the revenues of the Scots clergy, their mode of praying and preaching, the medical college at Edinburgh, Dr. Gregory and Dr. Cullen; the length of our vacation at Aberdeen, and the closeness of our attendance during the winter; the number of students that attend my lectures; my mode of lecturing, whether from notes, or completely written lectures: about Mr. Hume and Dr. Robertson, and Lord Kinnoul, and the Archbishop of York, &c.—His Majesty asked what I thought of my new acquaintance, Lord Dartmouth. I said there was something in his air and manner, which I thought not only agreeable, but enchanting, and that he seemed to me to be one of the best of men; a sentiment in which both their majesties heartily joined. ‘They say that Lord Dartmouth is an enthusiast,’ said the King; ‘but surely he says nothing on the subject of religion, but what every christian may and ought to say.’

“He asked whether I did not think the English

language on the decline at present. I answered in the affirmative, and the King agreed, and named the Spectator as one of the best standards of the language. When I told him that the Scots clergy sometimes prayed a quarter, or even half an hour at a time, he asked whether that did not lead them into repetitions. I said it often did.

“That,” said he, “I don’t like in prayers; and excellent as our liturgy is, I think it somewhat faulty in that respect.” “Your majesty knows,” said I, “that three services are joined in one, in the ordinary church service, which is one cause of these repetitions.” “True,” he replied, “and that circumstance also makes the service too long.” From this he took occasion to speak of the composition of the church liturgy; on which he very justly bestowed the highest commendation.

“Observe,” His Majesty said, “how flat those occasional prayers are, that are now composed, in comparison with the old ones.”

“When I mentioned the smallness of the church livings in Scotland, he said he wondered how men of liberal education would choose to become clergymen there; and asked, whether in the remote parts of the country the clergy in general were not very ignorant.” I answered, “No; for that education was cheap in Scotland, and that the clergy in general were men of good sense and competent learning.” He asked whether we had any

good preachers in Aberdeen. I said yes; and named Campbell and Gerard; with whose names, however, I did not find that he was acquainted. Doctor Majendie mentioned Doctor Oswald's Appeal,\* with commendation: I praised it too; and the Queen took down the name with a view to send for it. I was asked whether I knew Doctor Oswald. I answered I did not: and said that my book was published before I read his: that Doctor Oswald was well known to Lord Kinnoul, who had often proposed to make us acquainted.

"We discussed a great many other topics, for the conversation lasted upwards of an hour. The Queen bore a large share in it. Both the King and Her Majesty shewed a great deal of good sense,

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\* "An Appeal to Common Sense in behalf of Religion," octavo, 1767. The author, Dr. James Oswald, was a learned and pious divine of the church of Scotland; and of his work, that excellent judge, Archbishop Secker, thus wrote to a friend who had sent it to him. "The fundamental principle of his Appeal is not only right, but of the greatest importance; and he hath treated the subject with great justice and perspicuity; great mildness and decency towards those whom he confutes; great seriousness and propriety towards those whom he exhorts."

Dr. Priestley, however, was of a different opinion; and Dr. Oswald was one of the three Scotch Doctors whom he attacked with his wonted petulance and ill manners. The other two were that acute metaphysician, Dr. Reid, and the ingenious Dr. Beattie.

acuteness, and knowledge, as well as of good-nature and affability. At last the King took out his watch (for it was now almost three o'clock, his hour of dinner), which Doctor Majendie and I took as a signal to withdraw: we accordingly bowed to their majesties, and I addressed the King in these words:

"I hope your majesty will pardon me, if I take this opportunity to return you my humble and most grateful acknowledgments for the honour you have been pleased to confer upon me." He immediately answered: "I think I could do no less for a man who has done so much service for the cause of christianity. I shall always be glad of an opportunity to shew the good opinion I have of you."

"The Queen sat all the while, and the King stood, sometimes walking about a little. Her Majesty speaks the English language with surprising elegance, and little or nothing of a foreign manner: so that if she was only of the rank of a private gentlewoman, one could not help taking notice of her as one of the most agreeable women in the world. Her face is much more pleasing than any of her pictures; and in the expression of her eyes, and in her smile, there is something peculiarly engaging."

William, Lord Dartmouth, mentioned in such high terms of commendation by their majesties, was at this time secretary of state for the colonies,

and first lord of trade, in which post he succeeded the Earl of Hillsborough, and so continued till he was appointed lord privy seal, on the resignation of the Duke of Grafton. The excellence of his character may be inferred from the fact, that all parties esteemed him for his integrity, and spoke well of his talents, at a time when scarcely any one in public life could escape the lash of satire. By patronizing that class of divines called Calvinistic, he drew upon himself the appellation of Methodist; but he was perfectly clear from the flighty zeal and extravagancies of the sectaries who go under that denomination. His religion was the result of serious inquiry, and its sincerity was made to appear in the whole tenor of his public and private life. As a statesman, he was upright, diligent, and consistent; firm in his principles, and moderate to his opponents. Doctor Franklin, who was intimate with him, hailed his appointment to the board of trade and plantations as auspicious for the colonies; but it was not in Lord Dartmouth's power to prevent a rupture, which was already determined upon in the secret councils of the Americans. One thing is certain, that as the nomination of this excellent nobleman was the personal act of the King, at whose request alone his lordship could be prevailed upon to accept the place, it shews that His Majesty was for healing measures.

On the twenty-fourth of February, 1774, at five o'clock in the afternoon, Prince Adolphus-Frederick, now Duke of Cambridge, was born at the Queen's house, on which occasion the King received the usual congratulations.

The simplicity with which the younger children were brought up, is manifested by an anecdote of a conversation between the King and the Duke of Montague, when the latter attended a levee, after a visit to his daughter, the Duchess of Buccleugh, at Dalkeith House; and, in answer to a question from His Majesty, respecting the health of her children, he replied that they were all well, and making a hearty breakfast of oatmeal pottage every morning. The King then enquired whether they got good oatmeal. On being told that they were supplied with oatmeal of a most excellent quality, from Mr. James Mutter, of Middle Mills, near Laswade, His Majesty instantly requested the duke to order some for him; and the royal family were also supplied with that article from those mills for some years afterwards.

The education of the royal offspring was conducted on the principle of utility, as well as elegance, of which the following instance is related by Mr. Arthur Young, as having occurred when the Prince of Wales was scarcely more than twelve years of age.

A spot of ground in the garden at Kew was dug

by his royal highness the Prince of Wales, and his brother, the Duke of York, who sowed it with wheat, attended the growth of their little crop, weeded, reaped, and harvested it, solely by themselves. They thrashed out the corn, and separated it from the chaff: and at this period of their labour were brought to reflect, from their own experience, on the various labours and attention of the husbandman and farmer. The princes not only raised their own crop, but they also ground it, and having parted the bran from the meal, attended to the whole process of making it into bread, which it may well be imagined was eaten with no slight relish. The King and Queen partook of the philosophical repast; and beheld with pleasure the very amusements of their children rendered the source of useful knowledge.

The strict domestic attention which the royal pair displayed in the rearing of their offspring, was, indeed, highly deserving the imitation of every class of their subjects. It was customary to allow them a stated sum as a kind of privy purse, given without any express directions for its expenditure, but subject to the Queen's enquiries respecting its disposal, when a due rebuke was given, if the case demanded it; or praise was judiciously bestowed upon more deserving appropriations, so as to operate as a future lesson.

On one occasion, at breakfast, whilst the King was

reading a newspaper, one of the younger branches of the family, looking up in the Queen's face, said, "Mamma, I can't think what a prison is." Upon its being explained, and understanding that the prisoners were often half starved for want, the child replied, "that is cruel, for the prison is bad enough without starving; but I will give all my allowance to buy bread for the poor prisoners." Due praise was given for this benevolent intention, which was directed to be put in force, together with an addition from their majesties; and thus many a heart was relieved that knew not its benefactors.

Thus the virtue of benevolence was not merely inculcated in formal lessons, or left to casual exercise, as objects of distress might happen to present themselves for relief; but it was systematized on a regular plan. Method, indeed, was observed with the exactest precision throughout the royal household; and the picture of a single day might be considered as that of the whole year. Of this economy of time and employment, while the family resided at Kew, the following is a faithful sketch, as drawn up by an observer at the period:

"At six in the morning their majesties rise, and enjoy the two succeeding hours in a manner which they call their own. At eight, the Prince of Wales, the Bishop of Osnabrug, the princess-royal, and the Princes William and Edward, are brought from

their respective apartments, to breakfast with their illustrious parents. At nine, the younger children then attend, to lisp or smile their good morrows; and whilst the five eldest are closely applying to their tasks, the little ones and their nurses pass the morning in the garden.

“The King and Queen frequently amuse themselves with sitting in the room while the children dine; and once a-week, attended by the whole offspring in pairs, make the delightful tour of Richmond Gardens, where Her Majesty has erected a cottage after a design of her own, in a chaste style, and ornamented it with a large collection of the best English prints. In the afternoon, while the Queen works at her needle, the King reads Shakespeare, or some other favourite author; and whatever charms ambition or folly may conceive to avail so exalted a station; it is neither on the throne nor in the drawing-room, in the splendour or the toys of sovereignty, that they place their felicity: it is in social and domestic gratifications, in breathing the free air, admiring the works of nature, tasting and encouraging the elegancies of art, and in living without dissipation. In the evening, all the children pay their duty at Kew House, before they retire to bed; after which, the King reads to Her Majesty; and having closed the day with a joint act of devotion, they retire to rest. This is the order of each revolving day, with such exceptions as are unavoid-

able in their high station. The sovereign is the father of his family: not a grievance reaches his knowledge that remains unredressed, nor a character of merit or ingenuity disregarded: his private conduct, therefore, is as exemplary as it is amiable.

“The Prince of Wales and the Bishop of Osnabrug bid fair to excel in learning, as no less than eight hours are spent in close application to the languages and the liberal sciences. All the ten, indeed, are very fine children; and it does not yet appear that parental partiality is known at court. Exercise, air, and light diet, are in the King’s idea fundamentally necessary to health: His Majesty, therefore, feeds chiefly on vegetables, and drinks but little wine: the Queen is what many private gentlewomen would call whimsically abstemious; for, at a table covered with dainties, she prefers the plainest and simplest dish, and seldom eats of more than two things at a meal. Her wardrobe is changed every three months; and while the nobility are eager to supply themselves with foreign dainties, her care is that nothing but what is English shall be provided for her wear. The tradesmen’s bills are regularly paid once a-quarter, for what comes, under the childrens’ department; and the whole is judiciously and happily conducted.”

This was written in the year 1775, by a person professionally about the court, who farther observed, “that Her Majesty displayed infinite taste, no less

in the disposition of her jewels, than that of her hair; the toupee being suited to the length and breadth of her face, so that whilst it fulfilled every intention of nature as to ornament, it answered every purpose of convenience, by being of a moderate size, light, and well-arranged: Her Majesty's cap was likewise so judiciously chosen, as neither to be so diminutive as to be nearly invisible, nor of such a magnitude as to bury the features of the wearer."

At the time when these remarks were made upon the appearance of the Queen, the capriciousness of fashion ran to the greatest excess. The female head was loaded with a pyramid of hair, on the summit of which waved a plume of feathers, of such an extraordinary length, that ladies of even moderate stature were obliged to stoop very low as they entered a room. The late Duchess of Devonshire, who was then the principal star in the court firmament, chose to make herself conspicuous for the size of her plumage, by wearing an ostrich feather of uncommon dimensions, which it was said she received as a present from Lord Stormont. The rage for feathers became in consequence so extravagant, that Her Majesty did all she could to check the folly, by wearing none herself, and intimating her desire that none should appear at court. This excited some mirth, at the expense of the ladies; but the most extraordinary thing of all, was a Latin letter pub-

lished on the subject, in the Cologne Gazette, as follows :

*Londini, xiv Lipritis.*

*“ In communem ferme apud fœminas venit morem grandes in capite gestare plumas; ingressum in conclavia persæpe impediētes, eoque adhucdum ingravescente, eas haut fœmineum, sed plumœum gēnuis appellare fas est : Regina, exemplar, virtutum sui generis existens, interdixit ne dominarum ulla plumoso crepitulo ornata in aula compareat.*

*“ Ducissa de Devonshire struthio camelina plumâ longitudinis ulnæ unius ac trium digitorum cristatâ incedebat.”*

That is,

*London, April 15.*

“ It is become a general fashion with the women to wear large feathers on their heads, which often hinder their entrance into their apartments; and which fashion now so increases, that we may truly call them, not the feminine, but the feathered sex. The Queen, the example of her sex in every virtue, has forbidden any of the plume-headed ladies to appear at court.

“ The Duchess of Devonshire is crested with an ostrich feather, one ell and three inches long.”

It was at the beginning of this year, that Lord Clare, afterwards Earl Nugent, presented to Her

Majesty a piece of excellent poplin of Irish manufacture, which he accompanied with some versès; that excited the risibility of the critics, and gave occasion to a witticism, it being said, though not trüly, that the Queen returned thanks to his lordship for both pieces of stuff.

Parliament, during this session, granted one hundred thousand pounds to His Majesty, on account of what had been laid out in the original purchase and the fitting up of the Queen's palace, in consideration that Somerset House should be converted and applied, for the future, to the purpose of holding and keeping therein certain public offices. Pursuant to this resolution, an act was also passed for settling the Queen's house, heretofore called Buckingham House; upon Her Majesty.

The sequestered manner in which the royal family lived at this time was far from being agreeable to some of the household; and the maids of honour, in particular, were so much offended, that they presented a memorial to the Lord Steward, complaining of their want of suppers. This being imparted to the King, he said, "that the regimen adopted by himself and the Queen could not be altered;" but, of his own accord, he immediately raised the salaries of the ladies seventy pounds each, which was more than an adequate compensation for the privation they sustained. Having noticed this circumstance, it may not be improper to observe, that

whenever one of Her Majesty's maids of honour married, a bridal gift of one thousand pounds was always presented to the lady previous to the ceremony. The first who received this compliment was the daughter of Sir Cecil Bishop, on her marriage with Sir George Warren.

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## CHAPTER XI.

*Melancholy Case of the Perreaus.—Aversion of the King and the Prince Regent to the signing of Death Warrants.—Reflections on that Practice.—Birth of Princess Mary.—Alterations in the Government of the elder Princes.—Preferment of Dr. Porteus.—Celebration of the Birth-day of the Prince of Wales.—Experiments to resist Fire.—Case of Dr. Dodd.—Birth of Princess Sophia.—War between England and France.—Their Majesties visit Portsmouth and the Camps.—Musical Phenomenon.—Anecdote of Prince William-Henry.—Residence at Windsor.—Bounty of the Queen to Widows.—Poetical Eulogium.*

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A MOST distressing spectacle shocked the feelings of Her Majesty at the beginning of the year 1776, as she passed through an anti-room, in her way to the chapel-royal. This was, the wife of Robert Perreau, accompanied by her little family, all clad in deep mourning, and waiting, with palpitating hearts, to present a petition on the behalf of the unhappy man, who, together with his brother, then lay under sentence of death for forgery. The case was one of an extraordinary nature, that greatly agitated the public mind, particularly as it concerned the husband of the afflicted woman who now came.

to implore the interest of the Queen for mercy. Her Majesty was deeply affected, took the petition with a trembling hand, and looked compassionately upon the melancholy group, but could only utter a sigh, which, however, sufficiently spoke the language of the heart. The petition was committed to the hands of the King, by whom it was referred to the council; but, on Lord Mansfield's saying that one brother could not be pardoned without the other, and the guilt of Daniel Perreau being considered as manifest, justice took its course, though not without exciting a general murmur of dissatisfaction. While upon this melancholy subject, it is proper to observe, that the King was never known to sign a death-warrant without expressing visible emotions, which sometimes rendered him incapable of performing that act of royalty for a few minutes. Let it be spoken also to the honour of his royal highness the Prince Regent, that he has uniformly evinced the same tenderness of heart in the discharge of this most painful of his ministerial duties. It would be well if the royal signature could be dispensed with altogether, in the adjudication of criminals to death; for, according to the present system, it not only exposes the sovereign to many harsh censures, but puts his private feelings oftentimes to the most racking torture. Let the monarch enjoy the exquisite delight arising from the dispensation

of mercy, but let the invidious office of pronouncing the last stern decree of justice be entrusted to a commission or the council.

On the twenty-fifth of April, at seven in the morning, Her Majesty was delivered of her royal highness the Princess Mary, now Duchess of Gloucester.

Soon after this, a change took place in the education of the two elder princes, Lord Bruce, their governor, being superseded by the Duke of Montagu, and Dr. Markham as tutor, by Bishop Hurd. This alteration was much talked of at the time, and various reasons were assigned for it; the most credited of which was, that Lord Bruce, having been corrected, with respect to a classical quotation, by the Prince of Wales, thought it prudent to retire from an office, which, whatever might be his merits in other respects, he was but indifferently qualified to fill as a scholar. The same objection certainly could not apply to the Bishop of Chester; but then it was said, that though his lordship's classical abilities were of the first order, his manner of conveying instruction was far from being easy or agreeable. Besides, the King had formed a high opinion of the various talents of Bishop Hurd, from reading his Dialogues; and he thought that a man who evinced such an accurate knowledge of the English history and constitution, was the fittest person to superintend the studies of an heir-apparent to the

throne of these realms. The appointment was accordingly made, but without giving offence to Lord Bruce or Dr. Markham, the one being created Earl of Aylesbury, and the other elevated soon after to the see of York. This last promotion afforded the Queen an opportunity of exerting her influence in raising Dr. Porteus to the episcopal bench; but though the fact was generally known that this excellent prelate owed his preferment entirely to the recommendation of Her Majesty, the obligation is not once mentioned by his lordship's biographer. Dr. Porteus was originally recommended to Her Majesty by his patron, Archbishop Secker, and he continued to enjoy her confidence all his life : how, therefore, no notice should have been taken of a circumstance so perfectly honourable to all the parties, is very unaccountable. The piety of the bishop rendered him very acceptable to the Queen, who, indeed, was never more happy than in shewing her esteem for those who exerted their talents in behalf of religion, of which, the pensions she procured for Dr. Blair and Dr. Fordyce may also be adduced as striking instances.

The birth-day of the Prince of Wales was celebrated this year at Windsor in a peculiar manner. Their majesties, and all the family, with several of the nobility, went in procession to St. George's Chapel, where, previous to the service, the King, the Prince, the Bishop of Osnabrug, and the Duke

of Montagu, went to the altar, and made their offerings of gold and silver, the prebendaries receiving the same in a golden dish. On the twenty-second of the same month, there was a regatta, in honour of the Prince, who gave three prizes, to be rowed for by as many young watermen just out of their time. The day was fine, and their majesties walked among the company, along the side of the river, enjoying the liveliness of the scene, and the pleasure it afforded to the numerous spectators.

About a month afterwards, the King and Queen, with the Prince of Wales, the Bishop of Osnabrug, the princess-royal, and the Princess Augusta, attended by Lady Charlotte Finch, General Desagu-liers, and Colonel Hotham, went to Mr. Hartley's house on Wimbledon Common, to see some very remarkable experiments, illustrative of that gentleman's invention for the security of buildings against fire. Their majesties, with the princes and princesses, first breakfasted in one of the rooms, the tea-kettle being boiled over a fire made upon the floor of the opposite room, which apartment they afterwards went into, and saw the bed set on fire, the curtains of which were soon consumed, and part of the bedstead, but not the whole, the flames, from the resistance of the floor, going out of themselves. Their majesties then went down stairs, and saw a horse-shoe forged in a fire made upon the floor; as also a large faggot lighted, that was hung up to the

ceiling instead of a curtain; after which, two fires were made upon the staircase, and one under the stairs, all of which burnt out quietly, without spreading beyond the place where the fuel was first laid. Their majesties paid the greatest attention to every experiment that was made, and expressed the utmost satisfaction at the discovery. The whole concluded by lighting a large magazine of faggots, pitch, and tar, in the same room that had undergone the same trial twice before: once, when these experiments were first shewn to the King, and afterwards to the committee of the City of London; and it burnt out now as it did then, with amazing fury, but no damage to the floor or ceiling. What deserved observation perhaps, as much as any thing, was the courage of the Queen and the children, in going up stairs, and abiding in the room directly over that which was raging like a furnace beneath.

In the summer following, their majesties were very much distressed by the case of Dr. Dodd, on whose behalf numerous petitions were laid before the throne, and among the rest, one from the lord-mayor, aldermen, and common-council of London. This was presented at a drawing-room; and, at the same time, the wife of that unfortunate divine attended with another, to Her Majesty, but was so overcome with grief, that she fainted away three times, which being imparted to the Queen, she received the petition without waiting till she came.

out of the drawing-room. Another application for the same object was made to the Queen by the governors of the Magdalen charity, of which the doctor was the principal founder, and Her Majesty the patroness. But here also justice closed the door upon mercy ; and Lord Mansfield said, when the case came before the council, “ that should Dodd be pardoned, the Perreaus were murdered.” Two such circumstances in criminal history have seldom happened within the same compass of time ; but though the guilt of Dr. Dodd could hardly be doubted, there were points in his case that might have justified the exercise of the finest attribute of the crown in his favour, if it had not been for the previous taint on his character, by an act which occasioned his being struck out of the list of king’s chaplains. That mark of disgrace, instead of curing, only served to increase the folly of the doctor, who went on from one degree of extravagance to another, till a capital offence completed the climax of his errors, and an ignominious death terminated his career.

On the fourth of November, 1777, Her Majesty was delivered at her palace of a princess, who was baptized on the first of the following month at St. James’s, by the name of Sophia.

The contest between England and her revolted colonies had now lasted three years, when the flames of war came nearer home, by an open de-

claration of the French court, avowing its alliance with the United States of America. Hostilities were of course inevitable; and the spirit of the country was raised to the highest degree of animation in consequence of this act of perfidy; for such undoubtedly it was on the part of the French government. The most active preparations were accordingly made for carrying on the war with vigour both by sea and land; a large fleet being fitted out under Admiral Keppel, and camps formed in different places, to repel any attempts at invasion. On the morning of the third of May, 1778, their majesties set out for Portsmouth, where they arrived the next day; and while the King was viewing the ordnance, the Queen went on board the royal yacht, in which she proceeded to Spithead, passing through the fleet, and receiving royal salutes. In the course of the day, she was joined by His Majesty, who dined with her under a large awning on the quarter-deck of the yacht, accompanied by several flag-officers. On the sixth, the Queen inspected the rope-house, with all its wonderful machinery; and, after a minute examination of the several departments in the dock-yard, the royal pair returned to town, the road throughout being lined with spectators.

At the end of September, their majesties set out on another tour to the west, for the purpose of inspecting the camp near Winchester. On their arrival at Eastgate House, belonging to Mr. Penton,

they were waited upon by the mayor and corporation of Winchester, who addressed them in a loyal speech, as did the master and fellows of the college, who were all graciously received. In the evening, there was a general illumination in the city, the very steeples of the churches being surrounded with lights, and the bells rung all night long.

Their majesties supped and slept at Eastgate House during their stay; but though the Queen held drawing-rooms there, the King had his levees at St. John's House, in the city. His Majesty was dressed in scarlet, faced with blue, gold lace, and epaulettes. Her Majesty wore a scarlet riding-dress faced with blue, richly embroidered, a black hat and feather, and a large cockade. Upwards of five hundred gentlemen on horseback, with bands of music, went more than seven miles to meet their majesties, whom they accompanied into town with shouts of "God save the King and Queen." The next morning, being the twenty-ninth, the King reviewed the troops; after which, their majesties dined in the royal marquee, with several of the nobility and officers. In the evening, the City of Winchester was again illuminated, and the next day their majesties visited the principal buildings, particularly the college, where the senior scholar delivered a Latin oration. The same afternoon, the royal personages left Winchester, having, during their short stay, endeared themselves to the inha-

bitants, by their courtesy and charities. Before their departure, several debtors were released by their bounty, a number of convicts received the royal pardon, and a large sum was entrusted to the mayor for distribution among the poor.

From Winchester, their majesties went to Salisbury, where they inspected the cathedral, and then paid a visit to Lord Pembroke, at Wilton. The next day they rode out upon the plain, to see Stonehenge, and after examining that stupendous monument of druidical superstition very minutely, they proceeded to the Duke of Queensberry's at Ambresbury, and from thence to Windsor.

On the nineteenth of the following month, the King and Queen went to see the camp at Warley, in Essex, taking up their residence for three days at Thorndon Hall, the seat of Lord Petre, who is said to have expended upwards of twelve thousand pounds in entertaining his royal visitors.

At the beginning of November, their majesties again set off on another military progress, to review the troops encamped on Coxheath, in Kent. During the manœuvres, the Queen sat in her carriage, attended by Lady Edgecumbe; but, when the whole ended, she alighted, and went into the royal marquee, where the Duchesses of Devonshire, Grafton, and Gordon, Lady Cranborne, and many other females of distinction, were introduced; after which, a number of the officers had the honour to kiss their

majesties' hands. These ceremonies being finished, the royal pair proceeded to Leeds Castle, where they were sumptuously entertained, and then returned to town.

During the whole of these excursions, considerable largesses were left for distribution among the poor, in the several parishes through which their majesties passed; and in this last progress, the King ordered a list of the debtors at Maidstone to be made out, that the royal bounty might be extended to those who should be found deserving of it.

One of the parliamentary measures of this session was an act enabling His Majesty to settle annuities on his younger children, and those of the Duke of Gloucester; the former to take effect on the demise of the King, and the latter on that of his brother.

At the beginning of the next year, that wonderful phenomenon, young Crotch, now professor of music at Oxford, was introduced to their majesties, who held a private concert at the Queen's palace, for the purpose of witnessing his extraordinary powers. A numerous company of nobility attended, with a large band of performers; notwithstanding which, the child, though no more than three years and a half old, played several pieces upon the organ, with an exactness that astonished and delighted all who were present; after which, he performed in concert with the rest of the musicians.

On the twenty-third of February, another prince was added to the family; and being the eighth son, the appropriate name of Octavius was given to him at his baptism, which ceremony was performed with great splendour, in the great council-chamber at St. James's, on the twenty-fifth of the following month.

Prince William-Henry, the third son of their majesties, and now Duke of Clarence, was at this time serving as midshipman on board the *Prince George*, under the personal care of Rear Admiral Digby. His royal highness, of course, bore a part in the great naval engagement fought between the English and Spanish fleets, commanded by Admiral Rodney and Don Juan de Langara. The Spanish Admiral, after the victory, went on board the *Prince George*; and, on expressing his wish to return to his own ship, his royal highness, as a midshipman, came to announce that the boat was ready, on which, the Don lifted up his eyes with amazement, and exclaimed: "Well may England be the mistress of the ocean, when the sons of her King are thus employed in her service."

Their majesties at this period spent much of their time at Windsor, where the Queen, who, from the first moment she saw the place, expressed a desire to reside there, was now gratified by the building of a house near the castle-wall, and almost at the summit of the hill. This edifice, however, though

capacious, was only designed for an occasional retirement, the King and Queen who sometimes remained there three days in a week, or longer, during the summer months, still continuing to occupy the old palace at Kew, for the convenience of their numerous progeny. While the royal family dwelt at Kew, several of the nobility took houses in the neighbourhood; so that if the court did not exhibit the glare of magnificence, it displayed the comfort of sociability and confidence:

Bishop Newton, who had a house on the green, observes, "that it was an additional pleasure to see and hear so much more of the King and Queen in their privacies, of their conjugal happiness, and of their domestic virtues, which, the nearer they were beheld, appeared greater and more amiable, and were a shining pattern to the very best of their subjects."

In their daily rides for an airing, their majesties never failed to notice any objects that appeared to stand in need of immediate relief, or whose industry merited particular encouragement. Inquiries were made into the state of indigent families, and, without any delay, the most effectual assistance was conveyed to them, through trusty hands. One of the charities of the Queen at this period was of a peculiar description, and evinced as much discrimination as liberality. There were three classes of widows, twelve in each, supported by pensions agreeable to

that I must mention in life. The lowest grant was barely *ten* guineas a-year, thus judiciously rendering it not so *expedient* necessary on the part of the person who received it: but the payment was always *regularly*, and in *advance*.

Well, therefore, did Her Majesty merit the following *epithet*, expressed in the form of a satire, *namely*, after an *ostentatious* display of the excellencies of the *poetess*, the bard, since celebrated as the author of one of the most popular poems in the language, thus proceeds to delineate the character of the Queen:

## FRIEND.

I am your wife's just and keen;  
Pleased, and satirise the Queen.

## POET.

With all my heart.—The Queen, they say,  
Attends her nursery every day;  
And, like a common mother, shares  
In all her infants' little cares.  
What vulgar, unamusing scene,  
For GEORGE'S wife, and BRITAIN'S Queen!  
'Tis whisper'd also at the palace,  
(I hope 'tis but the voice of malice)  
'That (tell it not in foreign lands)  
She works with her own royal hands!  
And that our sovereign's sometimes seen  
In vest embroidered by his Queen.  
This might a courtly fashion be  
In days of old *ANDROMACHE*;

But modern ladies, trust my words,  
Seldom sew tunics for their lords.  
What secret next must I unfold ?  
She hates, I'm confidently told,  
She hates the manners of the times,  
And all our fashionable crimes ;  
And fondly wishes to restore  
The golden age, and days of yore,  
When silly, simple woman thought  
A breach of chastity a fault ;  
Esteem'd those modish things, DIVONCES,  
The very worst of human curses ;  
And deem'd assemblies, cards, and dice,  
The springs of every sort of vice.  
Romantic notions ! all the fair  
At such absurdities must stare ;  
And, spite of all her pains, will still  
Love routs, adultery, and quadrille.

## FRIEND.

Well, is that all you find to blame,  
Sir Critic, in the royal dame ?

## POET.

All I could find to blame ! No, truly,  
The longest day in June and July,  
Would fail me, ere I could express  
The half of CHARLOTTE'S blemishes.  
Those foolish and old-fashion'd ways,  
Of keeping holy sabbath days ;  
That affectation to appear  
At church, the word of God to hear :  
That poor-like plainness in her dress,  
So void of noble tawdriness ;

'That affability and ease,  
Which can her menial seryants please ;  
But which incredibly demean  
The state and grandeur of a queen  
These, and a thousand things beside,  
*I could discover and deride ;*  
But here's enough. Another day  
I may perhaps renew my lay.  
Are you content ?

FRIEND.

Not quite, unless  
You put your satire to the press ;  
For sure a satire in this mode  
Is equal to a birth-day ode.

END OF PART I.

